

STARS AND STRIPES®



**U.S. women
open Games with
soccer win**
Page 25

Mia Hamm

**Franks says Kerry
qualified to be
commander in chief**
Page 12



**Military starts
debugging
operation**
Page 6

Volume 2, No. 124 © EPSS 2004 MIDEAST EDITION

THURSDAY, AUGUST 12, 2004

U.S. prepares major offensive in Najaf

Page 3

Marines, GIs disturbed by fighting in cemetery Page 7



Unfit for duty?

Staff Sgt. William Pace wanted out as a squad leader with the 25th Infantry Division in Afghanistan. But his superiors told him, in the infantry “you don’t just quit your job.”

Page 4

PHOTO BY JON R. ANDERSON/Stars and Stripes

PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY CHRISTOPHER SIX/Stars and Stripes

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News Tracker ... What's new with old news

States

Fresno slayings: Prosecutors in Fresno, Calif., say they will seek the death penalty against a man charged with shooting nine of his children in his home.

Marcus Wesson is charged with shooting nine of his children, ages 1 to 25, on March 12. Officers were called to his home by two women who were trying to retrieve their children from inside the Wesson household.

Wesson, 57, is also accused of 13 sex crimes, including rape, with each of the victims believed to be family members. He has pleaded not guilty to all charges.

Smart abduction: The woman accused in the Elizabeth Smart kidnapping is still not competent to stand trial and must receive another year of treatment, a Utah judge has ruled.

Wanda Barzee, 58, who first was ruled incompetent in January, remains incompetent, but there is a "substantial probability she may become competent in the foreseeable future," Third District Judge Judith Atherton said Tuesday. She ordered another evaluation on Aug. 10, 2005.

Barzee, and her husband, Brian David Mitchell, are accused of kidnapping the then 14-year-old girl at knife-point from her Salt Lake City home June 5, 2002, and holding her captive for nine months. Authorities said Mitchell, a self-proclaimed prophet, wanted the girl for his second wife.

Stewart perjury trial: A federal judge in New York declined to throw out perjury charges Wednesday against the ink expert who testified at the Martha Stewart trial about a stock worksheet that was used as evidence.

Larry Stewart, no relation to Martha Stewart, is accused of lying repeatedly on the witness stand, mainly by exaggerating his role in ink-analysis testing of the worksheet.

Steinberg release: Joel Steinberg, who left prison after serving 17 years for the beating death of his 6-year-old adopted daughter, was thrown out of a Manhattan halfway house because of a magazine interview he gave in which he called himself "a good father."

By giving the interview, Steinberg violated a condition of his stay that he not speak to the news media while he resided at the house, said JoAnne Page, president of the Fortune Society, which runs the facility.

Steinberg, who served two-thirds of the maximum 25-year sentence after he was convicted of killing Lisa Steinberg, left the halfway house on Saturday, Page said.

Chicken plant video: Federal compliance officers have finished investigating the West Virginia processing plant where workers were accused of torturing chickens before slaughter, but the U.S. Department of Agriculture is still reviewing the results.

Spokesman Matt Baum said Wednesday it may be a few weeks before the agency decides whether any action is needed at the Pilgrim's Pride plant in Moorefield, where 11 workers were fired for mistreating birds.

The abuse came to light last month when



Berlin Wall anniversary: Two women pass the Berlin Wall on Wednesday at the Wall Memorial Park. Friday is the 43rd anniversary of the building of the wall, which divided Berlin in two parts until it was torn down in 1989.

People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals released secretly recorded video of workers stomping, kicking and slamming chickens against walls.

World

Germany terror trial: A key al-Qaida captive in U.S. custody told interrogators that a Moroccan on trial for helping the Hamburg-based Sept. 11, 2001, suicide pilots had no knowledge of the plot, according to a summary of the questioning of two key terror suspects presented Wednesday for the first time in court.

Mounir el Motassadeq, accused of giving logistical aid to the Hamburg al-Qaida cell that included hijackers Mohamed Atta, Marwan al-Shehhi and Ziad Jarrah, is being retried after his conviction was thrown out in March.

The Justice Department's summary of interrogations presented in the Hamburg state court said Ramzi Binashibh, believed to be the Hamburg cell's contact with al-Qaida, maintained that el Motassadeq was not part of the plot.

Al-Qaida operative arrest: Police have arrested a close aide of a senior Pakistani al-Qaida operative who used to run a terror training camp in Afghanistan and was recently captured in the United Arab Emirates, an official said Wednesday.

The aide, identified only as Arshad, was arrested in a raid late Monday on a hideout in Sialkot, said Sialkot police chief Nisar Sohray.

Police seized 12 rockets, three rocket launchers, two AK-47 assault rifles, three pistols and ammunition.

Arshad is believed to be a close aide of Qari Saifullah Akhtar who used to run a terror camp near the Afghan capital Kabul that trained 3,500 men in combat skills, including assassination and kidnapping. He was arrested recently in Dubai, and Pakistani officials said over the weekend that he had been flown to Pakistan for questioning.

Russian oil prices: It still pumps a fifth of Russia's oil and its prized production assets haven't been nationalized yet, but fears about the future of oil giant Yukos have helped push crude prices to record levels.

Analysts say output cuts or a state take-

over of the company would propel prices even higher, threaten Russia's production growth and jeopardize its international standing.

With an end-of-August deadline to pay a crippling \$3.4 billion back-tax bill that may be just a fraction of the final claim against Yukos, concerns about supply interruptions at the company that provides some 3.3 percent of the oil bought internationally have spooked a jittery and overheated market.

Abductees in N. Korea: Japan and North Korea began talks Wednesday in China on a dispute over the fate of as many as 10 Japanese nationals abducted by the North decades ago.

Japanese media reports said Tokyo could suspend critical food aid to impoverished North Korea or refuse to resume talks on establishing diplomatic relations if the issue of the 10 missing is not resolved satisfactorily.

North Korea admitted in 2002 that it abducted 13 Japanese nationals during the 1970s and '80s to steal their identities and teach Japanese language and culture to its spies. Five of the abductees were returned to Japan in 2002.

Campaign for Suu Kyi freedom: Myanmar's main pro-democracy party has launched a nationwide campaign seeking the immediate and unconditional release of its leader, Aung San Suu Kyi, and other political detainees, the party's spokesman said Wednesday.

The National League for Democracy began collecting signatures for its campaign on July 19, a Myanmar holiday known as Martyrs Day, marking the anniversary of the 1947 assassination of Myanmar independence hero Gen. Aung San, who was Suu Kyi's father.

Getting the public involved in such a campaign may be unprecedented in Myanmar, which has been under virtually continuous military rule since 1962. Few people are willing to publicly express criticism of the government, and dissidents usually face official harassment or worse.

Suu Kyi's party won a landslide victory in 1990 elections, but the military refused to cede power. Suu Kyi has spent long periods of time under house arrest.

Stories and photos from wire services

Correction

A story in Wednesday's editions about a new book aimed at providing guidance to Navy chief petty officers contained incorrect information. The book, "The Chief Petty Officer's Guide," is not produced by the U.S. Navy.

Comics, horoscopes
and advice — every day
in Stars and Stripes

A follower of rebel Shiite cleric Muqtada al-Sadr holds the helmet of a U.S. servicemember Tuesday during clashes pitting al-Sadr's Mahdi army against U.S. and Iraqi forces in the holy city of Najaf, southern Iraq. Al-Sadr, whose Shiite militia has been battling U.S. forces across Iraq, instructed his fighters to continue their battle even if he is killed or captured.

AP



U.S. readies Najaf offensive

Military says Iraqi prime minister must first approve operation

By TODD PITMAN
The Associated Press

NAJAF, Iraq — U.S. troops prepared a major offensive to root out Shiite militiamen in the holy city of Najaf, training Iraqi security forces Wednesday to join the assault. In a sign of the operation's sensitivity, the military said Iraq's prime minister must approve.

Fighting persisted in the vast cemetery near Najaf's holiest site, the Imam Ali Shrine, where U.S. commanders say Mahdi Army militiamen loyal to radical Shiite cleric Muqtada al-Sadr have been holed up (see related story on Page 7). Gunbattles between militants and coalition forces in two other southern cities killed 18 people.

Farther north, U.S. jet fighters bombed the turbulent city of Fallujah on Wednesday, killing four people, wounding four others and damaging several houses, hospital officials said.

The U.S. military had no immediate comment, but U.S. forces have persistently fought with Sunni Muslim militants holed up in the city. Many of the insurgents believed responsible for the spate of kidnappings, bombings and shooting attacks at coalition forces, Iraqi

forces and civilians, are based in the volatile city, 40 miles west of Baghdad.

In Najaf, the Marines said Wednesday they are training Iraqi security forces in preparation for a major assault to root out the fighters.

Speaking of the timing for the planned major assault, U.S. Marine Maj. David Holahan said interim Prime Minister Ayad Allawi "makes the final decision."

It was not known whether commanders were planning a raid into the Imam Ali Shrine, an action that could enrage Iraq's Shiite majority and Shiites worldwide. Najaf's governor has given U.S. troops permission to enter the shrine compound.

A raid carried out by Iraqi security forces may be seen as less provocative to Shiite sensibilities. But many have criticized the Iraqi troops as insufficiently trained or armed.

Militiamen were once again firing on U.S. troops from a building just 400 yards from the Imam Ali Shrine. On Tuesday, U.S. helicopter gunships pummeled the multistory hotel with rockets, missiles and 30 mm cannons, killing 20 people, the military said, in one of the closest strikes yet to the shrine.

"We keep pushing south and they just keep coming," said Capt. Patrick McFall, from the 1st Cavalry Division.

Ibrahim al-Jaafari, Iraq's interim vice president, called on the U.S. troops to withdraw from Najaf.

"Only Iraqi forces should stay in Najaf, these forces should be responsible for security and should save Najaf from this phenomenon of killing," al-Jaafari told Arab TV network Al-Jazeera from London on Wednesday.

Coalition forces said they were operating in the city at the request of the government.

The top health official in Najaf, Falah al-Mahani, said the deteriorating security situation was causing "a real catastrophe" for the health services.

"Ambulances are prevented from reaching the injured people by the clashing parties. Our staff are not able to reach their hospitals. We are paralyzed," he said, adding that the fighting injured 18 members of his staff.

In a statement to his supporters Wednesday, al-Sadr said: "I hope that you keep fighting even if you see me detained or martyred. ... I thank the dear fighters all over Iraq for what they have done to set back injustice."

The U.S. military has estimated that hundreds of insurgents have been killed in Najaf since fighting began last Thursday, but the militants dispute that. Five U.S. troops have been killed, along with about 20 Iraqi officers.

U.S. deaths in Iraq

The Associated Press

As of Tuesday, 928 U.S. servicemen have died since the beginning of military operations in Iraq in March 2003, according to the Defense Department. Of those, 690 died as a result of hostile action and 238 died of nonhostile causes.

The number of soldiers killed in hostile action dropped by one from Monday's figure of 691, according to the Defense Department, but it gave no explanation for the change.

The British military has reported 62 deaths; Italy, 18; Spain, eight; Poland, seven; Bulgaria, six; Ukraine, four; Slovakia, three; Thailand, two; and Denmark, El Salvador, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia and the Netherlands have reported one death each.

Since May 1, 2003, when President Bush declared that major combat operations in Iraq had ended, 790 U.S. soldiers have died — 581 as a result of hostile action and 209 of nonhostile causes, according to the Defense Department.

The Department of Defense plans to update its weekly tally of the number of U.S. wounded in action on Wednesday this week, instead of Tuesday.

The latest deaths reported by U.S. Central Command:

■ No deaths reported.

The latest identifications reported by the military:

■ Army Capt. Andrew R. Houghton, 25, Houston, Texas; died Monday at Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington, D.C., of injuries sustained on July 10 in Ad Dhuhra, Iraq, when a rocket-propelled grenade detonated near his vehicle; assigned to the 1st Squadron, 4th Cavalry, 1st Infantry Division, Schweinfurt, Germany.

Rumsfeld applauds progress in Afghanistan voter registration

By JOHN J. LUMPKIN
The Associated Press

KABUL, Afghanistan — U.S. Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld renewed America's commitment to building democracy in war-torn Afghanistan Wednesday and hailed a hearty pace of registration for the October presidential election.

"The goal of course is for the Afghan security forces to be able to provide for the security," he said. "And each month, each quarter, solid progress is being made."

Joining President Hamid Karzai at a news conference not long after his arrival here, Rumsfeld said, "Your leadership team is showing great courage in your efforts" to stabilize the country.

"This upcoming election is an important one," he said. "When we talked a few months ago, the hope was three, four — maybe five — million registered voters. I'm told by the Joint Election Commission today, they claim something like 9 million, of which a sizable portion is women."

Rumsfeld noted that there "has been a campaign of intimidation" and "attempts to dissuade people from registering."

He called the heavy voter registration "a very vivid demonstration of the Afghan people's determination to make democracy work."

During his daylong visit, Rumsfeld planned consultations with United Nations officials and Af-

ghan officials, as well as meetings with senior U.S. military officials.

Before flying to the Afghan capital, he said that U.S.-led coalition forces are preparing a coordinated effort to attack the narcotics trade in the country, recognizing that drug income could be used to fund insurgents and terrorists in the country.

Rumsfeld offered few specifics, but noted the British government previously has taken the lead in working with Karzai's administration to address the drug trade in Afghanistan.

"There are plans being finished now," Rumsfeld had said Tuesday, in Oman for the first of several visits to U.S. allies in the region. "I don't want to get into whose troops will do what."



AP

Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld, left, and Afghan president Hamid Karzai shake hands during a press conference in Kabul on Wednesday. Rumsfeld arrived Wednesday for talks ahead of the first democratic presidential elections in the country scheduled for October 9.

A question of quitting

Army sergeant court-martialed after declaring himself incapable of job

BY JON R. ANDERSON

Stars and Stripes

KANDAHAR AIRFIELD, Afghanistan — Staff Sgt. William Pace decided he just couldn't do it anymore.

As a squad leader with the 25th Infantry Division's quick reaction force — part of Company A, 2nd Battalion, 35th Infantry Regiment — Pace was responsible for nine soldiers tasked with responding to virtually any flare-up throughout southern Afghanistan.

It could be anything: reinforcing a remote outpost under siege, securing a downed aircraft, rescuing an ambushed convoy. Pace and his men wouldn't know until they were loading into helicopters and on their way.

Just a few weeks into the mission, however, something went awry. And so on May 10, Pace went to his platoon sergeant, Sgt. 1st Class Joshua Pentz, and told him he wanted to step down as the leader of the 2nd squad.

Pentz told Pace to sleep on it and come back and talk him the next morning.

That evening, Pace gathered his men inside their tent next to the noisy Kandahar flight line and told them he was thinking about turning the squad over.

That's where Pace's commanders say he crossed the line.

A soldier's duty

Last week, the 35-year-old soldier faced an Army court-martial, charged with dereliction of duty and conduct prejudicial to good order and discipline.

Army prosecutors said the case cuts to the very heart of what it means to be a soldier.

"This is not a job at Wal-Mart," Capt. Brett Egusa, the chief prosecutor, told the military judge, Col. Stephanie Browne. "At Wal-Mart, someone can quit as the cashier and it doesn't matter. Someone else just fills in."

But not in the Army, said Egusa. "You can't quit in the infantry."

The consequence, he argued, was sending "a message you no longer have to do what you're told." The risk: The whole Army could just "decide to step down."

Perhaps ironically for a soldier who did not feel fit to lead his

troops, Egusa argued Pace's biggest sin was that he told his troops what was going on.

"What's the key here is that he went to his troops first," said Egusa.

The reasons why Pace wanted to quit may never be publicly known. He did not testify in his trial and, on his lawyer's advice, declined to be interviewed.

What is known is, that while stuck on recruiting duty in Maryland, Pace had lobbied hard to get reassigned into the division, volunteering to go to Afghanistan shortly before the unit moved out.

Not long after arriving, according to testimony during the trial, it was apparent that there was friction between Pace and some of his leaders. Whether that was the cause or the symptom of his uncertainty as a squad leader is unclear.

What Pace's trial did reveal, however, is the difficulty soldiers can face when they aren't comfortable performing their jobs. In a service where pilots can turn in their wings and officers can resign their commissions, Pace's trial raises questions about when it's appropriate for a leader to say he's no longer fit to lead — and whom he should say it to.

Pace's attorney, Capt. Paul Golden, argued that while Pace's actions were outside of Army regulations, the soldier did the right thing.

"They don't like that he requested to step down, but that doesn't make it criminal," said Golden. "In fact, you could argue that it was the responsible thing to do, as was telling his men."

Pace "felt a responsibility to tell his troops that he was thinking about stepping down," Golden said.

The first step

Pentz, the platoon sergeant, said he wanted to let Pace go.

"You can't force someone to have authority he doesn't want to have," Pentz testified.

"When Pace approached him, 'He told me that he was thinking about stepping down,'" Pentz testified. "He told me he didn't think he was up to par."

The next day, said Pentz, Pace told him he had talked to his men.

"That's when I knew he had changed himself," said Pentz.

That's also when Pentz took Pace to see company 1st Sergeant Jeffery Wilson, the top noncommissioned officer in Company A.

Wilson said Pace was evasive about why he wanted to step down.

"I spent 45 minutes trying to get him to tell me why," said Wilson.

In the end, he said, all Pace would say is that "the standards were too high."

Wilson said he wanted to help Pace but insisted "being a squad leader in the infantry, you don't just quit your job."

When cross-examined by Golden, Wilson said that he wouldn't want his troops going into battle with a squad leader who wasn't confident in his abilities.

"What is an NCO supposed to do if he doesn't feel up to the job?" Judge Browne asked Wilson.

Wilson's response was straightforward: "Bring it up with the chain of command."

Yes, Pace appeared to have done exactly that, Wilson said. Yes, he had taken the proper steps, "right up until he talked to his men. After that, no."

Turnout

Lining up several of Pace's soldiers, prosecutors tried to paint a picture of a unit turned upside down in the wake of Pace's announcement.

Pfc. Robert Samuel was watching a movie inside the squad tent when Pace came in and gathered everyone around.

In the next few days, I'm going to be stepping down as squad leader," Pace told the squad.

Samuel said he was shocked. Ever since arriving in Afghanistan he had been nervous.

"I feared for my life," said the grenadier. "I've never been in a combat zone before."

Pace had always said he'd take care of him. Now, he was leaving.

"My morale dropped," said Samuel. "One of the squad's two team leaders, Sgt. George Vaavale, agreed."

"I felt let down," Vaavale testified.

Vaavale was ordered to take over the squad the next day. At several times, he said, the soldiers would joke that they wanted to quit, too.



JON R. ANDERSON/Stars and Stripes

Army commanders said while it was bad enough that Staff Sgt. William Pace, a squad leader with the 25th Infantry Division's quick reaction force, would decide to quit his post in Kandahar, Afghanistan, he crossed the line by discussing his decision with his soldiers.

Going up the chain

After talking to Wilson, Pace said he wanted to see the battalion commander. But first, that meant talking to his company commander, Capt. Peter Farrell.

Sitting outside between the command tents on May 10, Farrell said he talked with Pace for about an hour.

"What I expressed first and foremost was that this was serious; you don't quit," said Farrell.

Not long after, Pace found himself before the battalion command sergeant major.

"He said he wasn't getting along with his platoon sergeant," said Command Sgt. Maj. Arthur Coleman. "His mind was made up, he wanted to quit."

Soon afterward, Pace was handed an Article 15, nonjudicial punishment, for quitting his position. Usually, such punishment entails fines and being stripped of rank.

Exercising his right under the Uniform Code of Military Justice, Pace declined the Article 15 and demanded a court-martial.

Days before the trial, Pace was offered another chance for an Article 15 with less punishment. He agreed, until he was told he'd have to sign a statement pleading guilty to the two charges against him — dereliction of duty and conduct prejudicial to good order and discipline.

"I said 'no way,'" Pace told Stars and Stripes. "They just weren't true."

Pace declined to elaborate, saying only that he feared repression if he spoke to the press.

At the end of the court-martial, Browne offered no explanation as she pronounced Pace not guilty on both charges.

Most of Pace's chain of command stormed out of the courtroom. At least a half-dozen soldiers, however, filed by to congratulate him.

Pace is now serving in the battalion's headquarters company, working as a security guard for the airfield.

E-mail Jon R. Anderson at: anderson@midestripes.osd.mil

Tape shows beheading; official says victim isn't CIA agent

The Associated Press

CAIRO, Egypt — An Islamic Web site carried a videotape Wednesday that appeared to show militants in Iraq beheading a man they identified as a CIA agent. The authenticity of the videotape could not be verified immediately.

A U.S. official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said CIA officials have accounted for all employees and no one is missing. U.S. officials were working to determine

if the tape was authentic, the official said.

The Internet site, regarded as a clearing house for tapes and statements by Islamic extremist groups, displayed footage of eight militants surrounding a seated man who wore a sign around his neck bearing his photograph and the handwritten letters CIA along with the Arabic word for "visitor."

In a close-up, the footage showed a masked militant holding a large knife to

the man's throat. The militant chopped repeatedly at the neck, severing the head. A masked militant was then shown holding the head aloft.

There have been at least 80 kidnappings in Iraq — some for ransom and some by militants seeking to drive foreign soldiers from the country. The new videotape did not identify the militants shown in the footage. Jordanian militant Abu Musab al-Zarqawi has claimed responsibility for previ-

ous beheadings in Iraq, including American businessman Nicholas Berg.

At least three Americans are known to be missing in Iraq — U.S. Army Spc. Keith M. Maupin and civilian contract workers William Bradley and Timothy Bell. The men have not been seen since an April 9 attack on a fuel convoy, although Arab television reported June 29 that Maupin had been killed. The U.S. military has said it could not confirm the death.

Al-Qaida uses old methods, new technology

Bin Laden combines low-tech and high-tech communications to stay hidden but in control

BY PAUL HAVEN
Associated Press Writer

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan — If Osama bin Laden is directing plans for an attack on the United States — as Washington intelligence officials suspect — his instructions are likely coming out of the craggy mountains between Afghanistan and Pakistan on the back of a donkey or under the shawl of a villager.

After the arrests of several top lieutenants, bin Laden and his right hand man, Egyptian Ayman al-Zawahiri, have learned their lessons well, Pakistani intelligence officials and international terrorism experts say. They don't use satellite or cellular phones, don't trust anyone outside their innermost circle and never come up for air.

Messages from the men likely pass through the hands of many couriers, most of whom have no idea where they originated, before they are turned into e-mails or conveyed by phone calls to other militants.

The U.S. government believes plans for a terror attack are being directed at the most senior levels of the al-Qaida leadership, including bin Laden, a U.S. intelligence official said.

How much input the top men

have is open to question, but a Pakistani government official said that several captured al-Qaida men have told authorities they received instructions from bin Laden.

"Probably he is alive, and some al-Qaida suspects captured in Pakistan have talked about receiving verbal messages from him through different channels," he said of bin Laden.

The American and Pakistani officials spoke on condition of anonymity.

There has been no firm intelligence on bin Laden and al-Zawahiri's whereabouts since they slipped away during a U.S.-Afghan assault on their mountain hideouts in Tora Bora in late 2001, but they are believed to be hiding in the mountainous no man's land between Pakistan and Afghanistan, protected by deeply conservative tribesmen who share their beliefs.

With the exception of about a half-dozen audio taped messages that the CIA has authenticated as being his voice, there has been virtually no sign of bin Laden since shortly after the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks. That silence has lent him almost a mythic quality, especially among his followers, but officials say he is still very real, and very dangerous.



Osama bin Laden, seen above in April 1998, has hardly been seen since Sept. 11, 2001. How does he do it? By using primitive methods that can't be traced by intelligence officials.

The Pakistani intelligence official said one of the best leads came with the arrest of al-Qaida's No. 3 man, Khalid Shaikh Mohammed, who had a letter on him that he told interrogators he got directly from bin Laden, and which experts authenticated as being in bin Laden's handwriting.

The letter was apparently personal and destined for several of bin Laden's relatives in Iran, the official said. He would give no further details.

Several top al-Qaida fugitives arrested in Pakistan have allegedly been tracked using satellite in-

tercepts, including Abu Zubaydah and Ramzi Binalshibh. The importance of discretion has become even more apparent in recent weeks following the July 13 arrest of an alleged al-Qaida computer whiz named Mohammed Naeem Noor Khan. Intelligence gleaned from Khan and his computer has led to counterterrorism operations in Pakistan, Britain and the United Arab Emirates, and dozens of suspects have been arrested.

Khan's computer contained a trove of information, including coded e-mails to other operatives.

He is said to have cooperated with authorities and sent e-mails while in custody to militants so that authorities could arrest them.

Pakistani authorities say bin Laden and al-Zawahiri have shielded themselves, staying clear of the chatter between lower ranking operatives. Bin Laden is seen mostly as a financial backer and religious inspiration to his fighters, making regular communication unnecessary.

The Pakistani intelligence official acknowledged that the lack of solid intelligence has been frustrating.

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50812

Officials ready for approaching sand flies

BY SANDRA JONTZ

Stars and Stripes

ARLINGTON, Va. — Peak leishmaniasis season in Iraq and Afghanistan is approaching, and military health officials are redoubling efforts to arm deployed troops with prevention measures.

Preventative medicine officials are deployed to those countries to brief troops about protections, hand out insecticides containing DEET and make sure troops have mosquito netting for their cots. They also hold pre- and post-deployment briefings.

And entomologists this year are spraying the ground of military bases and camps to kill the sand flies, said Dr. (Lt. Col.) Glenn Wortmann, program director of the infectious disease fellowship at Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington.

"With the initial [Iraq] invasion, that was not a top priority," Wortmann said. "Not getting shot was a top priority. What's new is now [health prevention specialists] are there making sure everyone has DEET, everyone has mosquito netting, and the entomologists are spraying insecticides."

The disease, spread by the bite

of a sand fly, has infected more than 600 troops since early 2003. Most broke out with minor skin lesions.

In Southwest and Central Asia, sand flies are active from March through October, peaking in September in some regions.

The disease is caused by parasites transmitted via sand fly saliva, and comes in three forms: cutaneous, affecting the skin; mucosal, affecting the mouth, nose and throat and which can disfigure; and visceral, affecting internal organs and can be fatal if untreated.

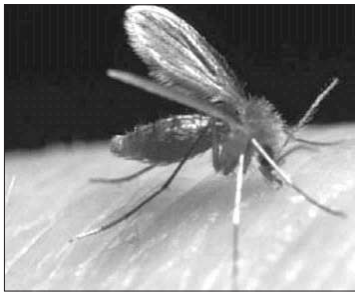
The incubation period is about three to six months, meaning symptoms don't show themselves soon after being bit.

Three troops, two out of Afghanistan and one out of Iraq, have been treated for visceral leishmaniasis, Wortmann said.

"All three are doing very well. ... They were not close to death at all."

The three experienced "persistent fevers for weeks on end" and were diagnosed after getting medical treatment at U.S. military hospitals in the States.

E-mail Sandra Jontz at: jontzs@stripes.osd.mil



Dr. Ed Rowan/WRAIR

Top: In this magnified photo, a sand fly delivers what could be a parasite-carrying bite that causes leishmaniasis, a disabling and sometimes deadly tropical illness.



LTC PETE WEINIA/WRAIR

Painful skin lesions characterize the "cutaneous" form of leishmaniasis, which can also attack the nose, throat, mouth and even internal organs of those infected.

Important contact information

People who deployed to Southwest and Central Asia who have questions about their general health or leishmaniasis can contact the Pentagon's Deployment Health Clinical Center of the Department of Defense, telephone 866-359-1627 or at: www.pdhealth.mil.

For evaluation, treatment, and referral of military health-care beneficiaries with suspected or confirmed cases of leishmaniasis, clinicians should contact the Infectious Disease Service at either Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington at (202) 782-1663 or 6740, or Brooke Army Medical Center on San Antonio, Texas, at (210) 916-5554 or 1286.

The Walter Reed Army Institute of Research in Maryland also offers diagnostic support and can be reached at (301) 319-9956.



1st MEF gets control of 11th MEU

Stars and Stripes

Control of the 2,100 Marines and sailors assigned to the 11th Marine Expeditionary Unit shifted Monday from the Polish-led Multi-National Division Central-South to the Fallujah-based 1st Marine Expeditionary Force.

The 11th MEU arrived in Iraq last month, taking up bases in An Najaf and Al Qadisiyah provinces.

Recently, the Marines have been fighting Iraqi cleric Muqtada al-Sadr's

Medhi militia around the holy city of Najaf.

The control change was made, according to a coalition news release, because the Marines share a "commonality in command and control systems [and was] driven by the desire to increase and enhance the effectiveness of the MNF units in the provinces."

The 1st MEF has been responsible for Iraq's Al Anbar province, which covers most of western Iraq, since March.

Marines with Company A, Battalion Landing Team 1st Battalion, 4th Marine Regiment, 11th Marine Expeditionary Unit respond Sunday to an ambush by insurgents in Najaf, Iraq. Control of the Marines and sailors assigned to the 11th Marine Expeditionary Unit shifted Monday from the Polish-led Multi-National Division Central-South to the Fallujah-based 1st Marine Expeditionary Force.

DICK KOTECKI/Courtesy of U.S. Marines

The MEU left San Diego in May, about a month earlier than planned, according to the release, "in response to a request from U.S. Central Command for more forces in Iraq."

The Marines will be deployed to Iraq for an undetermined length of time.

The MEU is composed of a command element, two companies of the 4th Marine Regiment's Battalion Landing Team 1st Battalion, the reinforced Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 166 and MEU Service Support Group 11.

Prevention tips

There's only one way to prevent leishmaniasis: Keep sand flies from biting. Here are some tips.

■ Try to limit outdoor activity at dusk and during the evening, when sand flies are most active.

■ Wear protective clothing, with uniform sleeves turned down and buttoned, and pant legs properly bunched.

■ Apply insect repellent with N, N-diethylmetatoluamide (DEET) to exposed skin, along the under the edges of clothing, such as under the ends of sleeves and pant legs. Reapply according to directions.

■ Keep uniforms properly treated with permethrin. Make sure to apply after every five washings.

■ Use permethrin-treated bed netting and screens on doors and windows. Fine-mesh netting (at least 18 holes to the linear inch) is required for an effective barrier against sand flies, which are about one-third the size of mosquitoes.

■ In the field, try to get your sleeping bag off the ground. If you can't do that, at least use a ground pad. If sleeping under cover, sweep all loose dust and dirt from floors. The cleaner your quarters, the fewer the flies.

■ Do not wear flea collars designed for dogs and cats, even over boots, medical experts warn. The collars are designed to repel common house fleas and there is no evidence they work against sand flies. Meanwhile, the chemicals in the collars have not been tested for safety with humans, and can cause allergic reactions and sores that may become infected.

Sources: U.S. Army, Centers for Disease Control

Comatose GI dies

A 1st Squadron, 4th Cavalry Regiment officer badly hurt last month in the explosion of a rocket-propelled grenade exploded died early Monday of his injuries.

First Lt. Andrew R. Houghton, 25, of Houston died at Walter Reed Medical Center in Washington surrounded by his family three days after a massive blood clot destroyed his brain, according to www.andyhougton.org, a Web site produced by his relatives.

He had been comatose since the attack against the Bradley Fighting Vehicle in which he was patrolling near Ad Dhuba, Iraq, on July 10.

Houghton, a 2001 graduate of the U.S. Military Academy, had been a platoon leader in the 1st Cavalry's Troop A.

He had turned down a desk job in June, his family said on the Web site, in order to stay with his troops.

He was promoted to captain shortly after his death.

He will be buried Monday at West Point, and a memorial service is scheduled Wednesday in Houston.

Services also are planned at the unit's home base in Schweinfurt, Germany, and at Forward Operating Base MacKenzie in Iraq, but details were not available.

From staff reports

Houghton

Al-Sadr militia taking fight to the grave



A follower of rebel Shiite cleric Muqtada al-Sadr fights during clashes between the Mahdi army and U.S. and Iraqi forces Tuesday in the holy city of Najaf, southern Iraq. U.S. troops say the forces they are battling inside Najaf's vast cemetery are better trained and more professional than the insurgents they are used to fighting.

U.S. troops battling radical cleric's forces throughout vast cemetery in holy city Najaf

By KARL VICK

The Washington Post

NAJAF, Iraq — Bats flapped out of crypts, startling soldiers creeping through the cemetery with guns up. Graves opened beneath their combat boots. And an old enemy displayed a new professionalism, darting in clearly practiced moves between tombstone and mausoleum to stalk the Americans from above ground and below.

In the battle to control one of the world's largest graveyards, U.S. Marines and soldiers say they are coping with a lot, including lingering regret. The vast cemetery in Najaf is sacred to Shiite Muslims, perhaps 2 million of whom lay buried in miles of desert adjoining the shrine of Imam Ali, son-in-law of the prophet Muhammad.

Soldiers involved in the fighting described how many of the most recent graves are marked by photos, which crumble when U.S. forces shell the cemetery walls to reach the militiamen hiding within.

"Wives, daughters, husbands," said Sgt. Hector Guzman, 28, of the 1st Cavalry Division's 5th Regiment. "You just know you're destroying that tomb."

The Houston native shook his head. "It doesn't feel right some times."

What the reinforced U.S. force in southern Iraq wants to do, commanders say, is destroy the Mahdi army, the militia loyal to Muqtada al-Sadr, the militant Shiite cleric.

The militia has bedeviled the American-led occupation of Iraq since October, when its largely impoverished, disaffected young gunmen first ambushed a U.S. patrol in a Baghdad slum. A far larger, sustained uprising in April undid much of the occupation's efforts to establish security in Shiite-populated central and southern Iraq.

The current engagement, which began Thursday with another ambush, is billed by all sides as the final showdown.

Al-Sadr this week brushed aside overtures from Iraq's interim government and vowed to fight to his last drop of blood. Iraqi officials, who consult closely with the U.S. commanders of the 160,000 foreign troops in Iraq, said the door was closed on negotiations.

To close observers, the final signal for decisive battle came with the departure of Ayatollah Ali Sistani, the senior Shiite cleric in Iraq and a longtime opponent of al-Sadr's, who is infamous for not having left his Najaf house in the previous six years, last week traveled to London just as the fighting with al-Sadr's militia erupted. The official explanation — treatment for a heart condition — brings a smile to the lips of U.S. commanders here.

"A lot of people think it's the green light for us to do what we have to do," said Maj. David Holahan, an executive officer of the 11th Marine Expeditionary Unit, which has responsibility for Najaf.

"The people will tell you they want it to end," said Army Lt. Col. Myles Miyamura, a battalion commander in the 1st Cavalry Division's 5th Regiment, which hurried from Baghdad on Thursday to reinforce the Marines. "They're ready for this to be over."

On Tuesday, while senior commanders huddled to discuss an endgame, the cemetery once again doubled as a killing field.

The battle for the graveyard went on for 36 hours. In the end, the Marines counted four of their own dead and more than 300 militants.

Still, soldiers said the insurgents showed signs that they had been training during a cease-fire that had kept violence here to a minimum since June. U.S. units accustomed to the disorganized, hit-and-run strikes of insurgents in Baghdad and elsewhere were impressed to see the black-clad fighters of the Mahdi army moving in coordinated units of five: typically three armed with rifles, which they fired to provide cover for the launch of rocket-propelled grenades, the weapon that has been most damaging to U.S. forces in Iraq.

"More professional," said Miyamura, the 5th Regiment battalion commander whose troops provided Najaf reinforcements. "I don't mean to give them too much, but they're good. These guys really make us work to kill them, but in the end, they're dead."

Danish cease prisoner handover because of Iraq's death penalty

By CHRISTIAN WIENBERG

The Associated Press

COPENHAGEN, Denmark — The Danish military suspended its handover of prisoners to British forces because of the reinstatement of Iraq's death penalty — an issue that could have broader implications and divide coalition partners working with the police of a now-sovereign Iraq.

"We wish to know for certain that people in our custody won't be handed over to face the death penalty," Danish Defense Minister Soeren Gade told reporters in Washington, where he met with U.S. Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld to discuss Denmark's participation in peacekeeping missions in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Britain on Tuesday countered that European conventions against capital punishment do not apply in Iraq.

The 25-member European Union bans capital punishment, and leading members of the bloc made clear last month that they held that line even if the death

penalty applies to Saddam Hussein, who was arraigned July 1 on war crimes charges and who Iraqi officials have suggested may ultimately be put to death.

But Denmark's decision Tuesday was a sign of how deeply held such convictions are in Europe, and a reminder of the legal complexity of authority in Iraq.

The British Ministry of Defense said that its troops mostly patrolled jointly with Iraqi police, and when arrests were made, the suspects automatically went into Iraqi custody.

In other instances, British soldiers would independently arrest suspects and would have to hand them over, despite the reinstatement of capital punishment, announced Sunday.

"We are apprehending these suspects of a criminal offense in Iraq in support of the Iraqi security forces and Iraqi efforts to secure law and order," a ministry statement said. "There will be situations in which we have no choice but to hand over detainees into the Iraqi criminal justice system."



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DOD: Intel czar a concern

By HOPE YEN
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Defense Department officials cautioned Wednesday against empowering a new national intelligence director with too much authority, saying centralized control could stall critical real-time information from reaching a combat zone.

"It's all about access to that data," Maj. Gen. Raymond Odierno, former commander of the 4th Infantry Division, told a House hearing. "One thing we learned in Iraq is you don't have much time."

Stephen Cambone, the Pentagon's undersecretary for intelligence, said creating a new director would require a reworking of the "relationship between the Department of Defense and supplier of information in a way a commander on the front line can be assured when he picks up the phone, he can get it."

"We'll have to reset those relationships to ensure that outcome. So far the best way has been the current arrangement," he said.

It was the second of a two-day hearing featuring testimony from Pentagon officials and defense experts on recommendations from the Sept. 11 commission to reform the intelligence community.

The defense officials' testimony Wednesday echoed concerns



President Bush, right, shakes hands Tuesday with Rep. Porter Goss, R-Fla., after naming him the new director of the CIA in the Rose Garden of the White House.

raised by some skeptical House members, including Rep. Duncan Hunter, R-Calif., chairman of the Armed Services panel.

"Over the last decade, the military has grown more dependent on improved national intelligence systems for precise maneuvers and application of firepower," he said. "Transferring DOD national intelligence capabilities to an outside entity could end up dulling our military edge — which would ultimately make us less secure."

Members of both parties returned from their August recess to attend the hearings this week

after the Sept. 11 commission released a scathing 567-page report in late July citing multiple intelligence failures. House leaders say they want legislation ready in September, Senate leaders by Oct. 1.

Democratic presidential candidate John Kerry has endorsed the commission's proposals. President Bush supports creating a national intelligence director, though not with the full budgetary powers the commission had recommended.

Bush announced Tuesday his nomination of House Intelligence Committee Chairman Rep. Porter Goss, R-Fla., as CIA director.

Halliburton's woes over Iraq war billing continue

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Halliburton Co. did not adequately account for more than \$1.8 billion it billed the government for work in Iraq and Kuwait, a published report on the findings of Pentagon auditors said Wednesday.

The results of the audit, reported by The Wall Street Journal, were the latest financial headache for Halliburton subsidiary KBR, formerly known as Kellogg, Brown & Root, which filed for bankruptcy protection last year to resolve billions of dollars in pending asbestos claims.

The \$1.8 billion amounts to 40 percent of the \$4.18 billion KBR has already billed the Pentagon for its work feeding and housing military troops. The Pentagon could begin withholding payments from KBR if it determines it is owed money — though it has yet to do so.

KBR officials told the newspaper the company has done nothing wrong, and expressed confidence the issue would be resolved without such action.

"The fact that we have negotiated and continue to negotiate proposals proves that our estimating system is valid," an unidentified KBR official was quoted as saying. "This is the same system that the company has used for more than 10 years."

The audit, part of a report dated Aug. 4 that has yet to be made public, found that KBR's "internal control policies" are "inadequate for providing verifiable, supportable, and documented cost estimates that are acceptable for negotiating a fair and reasonable price." Pentagon officials told the newspaper that no defense contractor has had its estimating system ruled "inadequate" in years.

Halliburton spokeswoman Wendy Hall told The Associated Press on Wednesday that the company disagrees with the report.

"This audit has nothing to do with the amounts we have billed the government or which costs will ultimately be determined allowable for our work in Iraq," she said. "This report alleges that Halliburton does not have a system which is adequate to produce proposals upon which to negotiate final price and this allegation is simply not true."

Auditors' concerns included more than \$900 million in payments for dozens of dining facilities; auditors say that more than a third of those costs may be unjustified, the newspaper said.

In late morning trading Wednesday, Halliburton shares were down 32 cents at \$29.51 on the New York Stock Exchange.

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IN THE STATES

U.S. government revamping airline screening program

BY LESLIE MILLER
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — More than two years and millions of dollars ago, it seemed like a good idea: develop a computerized system that checks airline passengers' backgrounds to make sure they're not terrorists. But so many people objected to one part of the plan or another that the government is scrapping major portions of the project, the Computer-Assisted Passenger Pre-screening System, commonly known as CAPPS II.

The makeover will include a new name, though that, too, is turning out to be a dilemma for the Homeland Security Department.

The working title, "Secure Passage," was abandoned because it had the same initials as another aviation security program. In a city that loves its acronyms, it's best not to double up.

No one thinks a name change alone will be enough to resurrect CAPPS II.

Dennis McBride, director of the Potomac Institute for Policy Studies, a research institute that focuses on science and technology, was briefed by Homeland Security officials on CAPPS II's progress last week.

"Getting there from here won't be easy," McBride concluded.

The Homeland Security officials working on the project are likely to get rid of one element that CAPPS II's critics dislike: making sure people are who they say they are by running their personal information against commercial and government databases.

Any new system would probably have a different process for verifying identity, according to Homeland Security officials.

Another problem is how to give airline passengers

the ability to correct mistakes if they're wrongly identified as terrorists or suspects.

Homeland Security spokesman Dennis Murphy said the department is working on that.

"That's something we clearly intend to test, to have a process for people to get redress if they feel that they're being screened unnecessarily or too frequently," Murphy said.

But what's really needed, say CAPPS II's numerous critics, is for the project's developers to drop their passion for secrecy.

Business Travel Coalition chairman Kevin Mitchell said CAPPS II wouldn't have become a political debacle if Homeland Security officials had been open about how the system was supposed to work.

The coalition is an advocacy group that tries to lower the cost of business travel.

"It was badly handled," Mitchell said. "It scared everybody. The lack of transparency and inclusiveness is what really doomed it."

Mitchell said privacy advocates and airline passenger groups might not have objected so strenuously to CAPPS II if they'd been included in the project's development.

"People would have been able to contribute solutions and buy into the process," Mitchell said.

But privacy advocate David Sobel thinks CAPPS II may be so fundamentally flawed that no amount of reshaping or repackaging can save it.

Sobel characterizes CAPPS II as a secret system of surveillance on tens of millions of people who fly on commercial airlines.

"It's a fundamental dilemma that arises when the government attempts to use intelligence information against average citizens," said Sobel, general counsel for the Electronic Privacy Information Center, a Washington-based research group.

9/11 panel seeking to expand no-fly list

BY DAVID KRAVETS
The Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO — The Sept. 11 commission wants the government to expand the no-fly list airlines now check to keep suspected terrorists off planes, consolidating as many as 12 secret lists maintained by different intelligence agencies.

That worries the American Civil Liberties Union, which has already sued the government, saying the airlines' effort to keep terror suspects and other dangerous people off planes endangers innocent passengers and subjects them to unnecessary searches and delays. Also, the government provides no way for those wrongly named to get themselves removed.

"Right now, if you're on the list, you're in a no-fly jail. There is now no way out of this," said Barry Steinhardt, the director of the ACLU's Technology and Liberty Project.

Commissioners agree the government has a "definite interest" in ensuring the protection of passengers' civil liberties as well as their safety. Their report, however, didn't spell out how the government should improve its checks and balances for the watch lists.

In lawsuits filed in San Francisco and Seattle, the ACLU has demanded the government ex-

plain how wrongly flagged travelers — usually targeted because they have names similar to those on the list — can get off it. The ACLU also wants to know how many people are on the list.

"They have to make the best efforts to make sure it's accurate and has to have a procedure to make sure people mistakenly identified can get off the list," Steinhardt said.

U.S. District Judge Charles Breyer, who privately reviewed the government's "sensitive" data, ordered the government in June to further explain why it hasn't disclosed certain documents in response to the ACLU's Freedom of Information Act request.

Breyer said the government has refused to say why the number of people on the list should not be disclosed. He also wonders why the government classified its procedure for adding names to the list as "non-disclosable sensitive security information."

"In many instances, the government has not come close to meeting its burden, and, in some cases, has made frivolous claims of exemption," Breyer wrote.

Authorities have repeatedly refused comment on Breyer's ruling or questions about the no-fly list.

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La. serial killings suspect guilty in one death

BY MELINDA DESLATTE

The Associated Press

PORT ALLEN, La. — A suspected serial killer faces a mandatory sentence of life in prison after a jury convicted him of second-degree murder in the beating and stabbing death of a 21-year-old woman.

A jury took less than two hours Tuesday to find Derrick Todd Lee

Lee guilty in the slaying of Gera-lynn DeSoto.

Lee, 35, still faces two first-degree murder charges carrying possible death sentences in other cases.

DeSoto was found stabbed and beaten to death and her neck slashed in her home in the town of Addis the day she registered for graduate school at Louisiana State University in January 2002.

When the verdict was read, Lee was on his feet, leaning on a table. He did not react. His family stared straight ahead as the jury

of six women and six men was polled, while DeSoto's mother and father broke down and cried. The defense said there would be an immediate appeal.

Eleven jurors voted for conviction and one chose not guilty.

Ten guilty votes were required for conviction of second-degree murder.

"All I wanted was 10. The fact that we got 11, I'm happy," prosecutor Tony Clayton said.

Outside court, DeSoto's family refused to comment. Relatives of other alleged victims said they

were pleased with the verdict, although several expressed concern about the lack of a unanimous verdict.

DeSoto's death was linked to Lee after he was arrested in May 2003 in connection with a string of five slayings that terrorized people from Baton Rouge to Lafayette for more than a year.

Police eventually alleged that DNA evidence linked Lee to the murders of seven women between April 1998 and March 2003.



Derrick Todd Lee

Messages of Support

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Everytime I think of your selfless commitment to my freedom and my family's freedom I am overcome with gratitude and respect. My entire family is praying for you all. Thank you for making the world a safer place for generations to come. God Bless You All, Shelby Downing

★ I want to say thank you. At night, when I sleep safe and sound, I know it is all the fine men and women of the military I have to thank. Vivian

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Messages of Support

★ Hi, My name is Joyce and I am writing to say Thank You to all the brave soldiers. I am praying for all American soldiers and may God Bless you all. I am also writing to let you know that I support the American Soldiers and what you guys stand for, over there fighting for freedom, May God Bless all of you Bye for now Joyce

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Fed sees future interest rate increases

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Federal Reserve, anticipating an acceleration of economic growth after the current slow patch, strongly hinted it doesn't plan to take a breather in its campaign to push interest rates higher to keep inflation under control.

Economists had believed the Fed might pause in its credit tightening in September. But now they are saying they fully expect a third rate increase to come at the Fed's Sept. 21 meeting.

The central bank raised rates Tuesday for the second time this year, pushing its target for the federal funds rate up from 1.25 percent to 1.5 percent.

That move was immediately followed by a quarter-point increase in commercial banks' prime lending rate, the benchmark for millions of consumer and business loans, which climbed from 4.25 percent to 4.5 percent.

Analysts said the Fed sought to project a sense of confidence that the economic slowdown was not a threat to derail the current expansion.

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NATIONAL OCEANIC & ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION/AP

Tropical Storm Charley, lower right, over the Caribbean Sea, and Tropical Storm Bonnie, upper left, over the Gulf of Mexico, are shown in a NOAA satellite image taken at 7:45 a.m. EDT Wednesday.

Two tropical storms headed toward U.S.

The Associated Press

MIAMI — Back-to-back tropical storms took aim at Florida as they strengthened Wednesday, with Bonnie chugging across the Gulf of Mexico toward the already-wet Panhandle and a stronger Charley prompting emergency officials to order visitors to evacuate part of the Florida Keys.

The National Hurricane Center issued a hurricane watch for the middle and lower Florida Keys from Dry Tortugas to Craig Key.

A watch means hurricane conditions are possible within 36 hours.

Hurricane watches were posted for western Cuba and Jamaica, and a hurricane warning was issued for the Cayman Islands.

Most of northwest Florida, from the Alabama line to the Suwannee River, was under a tropical storm warning and a hurricane watch and could expect Bonnie's wind and rain on Thursday, the hurricane center said.

The storms also threatened to produce rain along wide sections of the East Coast.

Officials confirm tapes seen

FBI, police knew in 2002 about Las Vegas videos

BY JOHN SOLOMON

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Freed from a judge's gag order, FBI officials and Las Vegas police confirmed Tuesday night they learned in the fall of 2002 about two videotapes suggesting terrorists had cased the city's casinos but decided it wasn't necessary to alert the public.

The officials also strongly disputed they didn't take the evidence seriously, as suggested in Justice Department documents obtained by The Associated Press and by a federal prosecutor in Detroit who alerted them to the evidence and spoke publicly of his concerns this week.

The tapes were shown to casinos in the fall of 2002, officials said, but they added there was differing recollections about whether some local officials declined a later opportunity to learn more about the surveillance from an FBI agent from Detroit who had worked on the case.

"We took the tapes seriously," Special Agent David Nanz in Las Vegas said in an interview. "When we get a tape like that ... further investigation is required to determine its relevance. And that's what we did."

Nanz said, however, his office agreed with colleagues in Detroit that both tapes amounted to terrorist surveillance. "We don't dispute those were surveillance tapes," he said.

In documents and interviews reported by AP on Monday, authorities in Detroit alleged as early as September 2002 that Las Vegas authorities didn't want to issue a public warning because of concerns it might hurt tourism or affect the casinos' liability.

Las Vegas authorities denied Tuesday those factors affected their decision.



UNITED STATES JUSTICE DEPARTMENT/AP

An image from a United States Justice Department evidence video shows the sign of the Excalibur hotel and casino in Las Vegas. The Justice Department obtained video surveillance tapes in 2002, suggesting terrorists were targeting Las Vegas.

Nanz said one of the two tapes, the Spanish al-Qaida footage, was still classified at the time and Las Vegas authorities weren't immediately told that a witness, named Youssef Hninnssa, would corroborate the threat on the Detroit tape by saying members of a terror cell in Detroit had vowed to destroy the tourist city.

"The FBI in Las Vegas was not made aware in advance that Hninnssa's testimony would implicate security issues with Las Vegas," he said.

After several Las Vegas authorities said Monday they never knew about the tapes, Clark County Undersheriff Douglas Gillespie researched the issue Tuesday and confirmed two of his officers had indeed seen the footage and that authorities also offered the opportunity for the casinos to likewise view the footage.

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Franks: Kerry qualified to be top commander

BY WILLIAM C. MANN
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Retired Gen. Tommy Franks, producer of the early military successes in Afghanistan and Iraq, said Sunday that criticism of John Kerry's war record is political hyperbole and Kerry is "absolutely" qualified to be commander in chief.

A year into retirement, Franks also said he has not decided whether to endorse President Bush for re-election. "I don't know yet. I'm leaning in that direction," he said on ABC's "This Week."

Franks, whose hometown is Midland, Texas — where the president and first lady Laura Bush grew up — has been making television appearances in recent days to

publicize his just-published memoirs, "American Soldier."

"Do you think Senator Kerry is qualified to be commander in chief?" Franks was asked.

"Absolutely!" he said.

But like the criticism of Kerry, the retired general said the Democratic nominee's recent harsh words about the war plan Franks created in Afghanistan was motivated by politics and his failure to capture al-Qaida network leader Osama bin Laden.



Franks

"I think a presidential election year is a marvelous thing. I think Senator Kerry is a patriot. And I think what — what we're doing is, we're seeing an attempt to sort of draw the lines between the two parties in this country. And I wouldn't have it any other way," Franks said.

The characterization of Kerry as a coward and liar who did not earn the medals awarded him for his Vietnam service came in a television ad sponsored by a group that fashions calls itself Swift Boat Veterans for Truth.

Kerry was skipper of one of the small Mekong River boats and received the Silver Star and Bronze Star for valor and three Purple Hearts for wounds.

"I really work hard to stay away from hy-

perbole," Franks said.

"People ask me all the time about 'Fahrenheit 9/11' and then others will ask me about some equally vitriolic view at the end of the continuum on the conservative side."

"I believe that life really is someplace between the two," Franks said, "and so I am not a fan of hyperbole, whether it is for or against Senator Kerry or George W. Bush."

Franks said he also has not decided whether he would want to speak at the Republican National Convention.

"I'm a fiercely independent kind of guy and rather proud of it," Franks said.

Bush, McCain nix Kerry proposal to cut troops in Iraq

BY PETE YOST
The Associated Press

CRAWFORD, Texas — President Bush opposes Democratic rival John Kerry's timetable for withdrawing U.S. forces from Iraq, and Sen. John McCain suggested Wednesday that even more troops may be needed.

Kerry said this week that he hoped to begin reducing U.S. troop strength in Iraq within six months of taking office, if elected, but that it would depend on broader international assistance, better stability in Iraq and other factors.

Bush dismissed the plan as a politically driven one that would cut short the mission and aid the enemy.

"The key is not to get artificial timelines," Bush said Tuesday while campaigning for re-election in Niceville, Fla. He said the Mas-

sachusetts senator's plan would signal the enemy that, "Gosh, all we've got to do is wait them out."

McCain, who accompanied Bush, said both he and the president would love to bring the troops home tomorrow, but that any such plan depends on the situation in Iraq. On Wednesday, a roadside bomb exploded near a Baghdad market, killing at least six Iraqis, as insurgents battled U.S. forces in the seventh day of fighting in Najaf.

"I think the events on the ground right now indicate clearly that we cannot bring anybody home," McCain, R-Ariz., told ABC's "Good Morning America" in an interview Wednesday. "In certain areas we may even have to strengthen our troop presence in the form of special forces and others."

"So I just don't know how you



President Bush and Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., greet the crowd at the Pensacola Civic Center during a rally Tuesday in Pensacola, Fla.

do that. I just don't know how you achieve it without knowing the facts on the ground six months from now," the senator said from Bush's ranch, where he spent the night after a bus tour with the president on Tuesday through the military rich and heavily Republican Florida Panhandle.

Bush was likely to show McCain

around the ranch, aides said, before they leave for campaign events Wednesday in Albuquerque, N.M., and Phoenix just days after Kerry passed through.

Bush lost New Mexico by 366 votes in the 2000 presidential election. He managed a narrow win in Arizona, which has voted for the Democrat only once in the past 14 White House campaigns.

Kerry woos seniors by focusing on drug costs

BY MARY DALRYMPLE
The Associated Press

HENDERSON, Nev. — John Kerry wants to funnel seniors' anxiety about rising prescription drug prices into a drive to bring more older Americans out to vote for his Democratic presidential ticket.

His campaign was launching an effort Wednesday to identify, organize and mobilize seniors across the country while Kerry is pressuring President Bush to allow Americans to purchase cheaper prescription drugs from Canada.

"With rising care costs and a dragging economy, our seniors and families are squeezed like never before," Kerry said in remarks prepared for delivery.

Kerry's campaign announced plans to expand state efforts nationwide to register and encourage older voters to vote, including events at senior centers and retirement homes and a later campaign to inform older voters about absentee ballots and accessible polling sites.

Brand-name prescription drug prices rose more than three times the rate of overall inflation last year, according to recent studies by AARP and Families USA.

Congress enacted a Medicare prescription drug benefit to help seniors cope with the increasing cost of medicines. Democrats and Republicans have locked horns ever since over whether the program will significantly lower drug costs for seniors.

Democrats, including Kerry, say the drug benefit means a windfall for drug companies and some health insurance companies at the expense of seniors.

Ad-tracking company helps campaigns strategize

BY LIZ SIDOTI
The Associated Press

ARLINGTON, Va. — In a nondescript office building just south of Washington, researchers watch hundreds of political ads captured daily from the nation's television airwaves.

The ads and details about them are shipped to campaigns, parties and interest groups, providing strategists with snapshots of their opponents' and allies' on-air activities.

Campaign Media Analysis Group, a political ad tracking service, has the marketplace cornered, sending information each day to Republican and Democratic party committees, major House and Senate candidates and several national interest groups.

But at least one other company, Nielsen Media Research, is trying to make inroads.

Still, for eight years, CMAG has been the place political professionals have turned for day-to-day pictures of the political advertising landscape as they determine where to run ads, how much money to spend and what messages to project.

"If you have the money, they're indispen-

sable," said Bill Benoit, who studies political ads at the University of Missouri-Columbia. "It's extremely important for campaigns — or political parties or third-party groups — who want to keep tabs on what the other side is doing."

And, with laws now prohibiting federal campaigns from coordinating strategy with independent groups, Benoit said, CMAG data also is invaluable for allies looking for guidance about where to help out their preferred candidates.

The company started in the early 1990s as the research arm of National Media, a Republican media powerhouse. In 1997, Evan Tracey left that firm to create CMAG, hiring ex-Capitol Hill staffers and one-time campaign aides from both sides of the aisle. Since then, the company has grown, becoming a division of commercial ad tracker TNS Media Intelligence last year.

Despite Tracey's GOP background, CMAG is nonpartisan with clients from all political persuasions. "We're in the business of politics, we're not political," Tracey said.

Each day, his analysts — numbering rough-

ly a dozen in an election year — monitor the nation's top 100 local media markets, which cover 85 percent of the country, as well as national cable networks and Spanish-language channels. By the fall, they will screen 500 political ads a day.

Within a few hours of a new ad being broadcast, CMAG's software plucks it from the airwaves. For anywhere from \$15,000 to \$150,000 or more per race, clients receive the ad, a story board breaking it down frame by frame, and charts and graphs showing where the ad ran, how many times it was broadcast, the estimated spending and the sponsor.

Strategists call CMAG priceless for local, state and issue advocacy campaigns, as well as House and Senate races, allowing campaigns to know precisely what voters are watching and what their opponents and interest groups are saying.

Before CMAG, candidates and parties mainly relied on networks of volunteers to tape ads aired in their districts using VCRs. Tapes would arrive at campaigns days later. That's now the exception rather than the rule.

With CMAG, strategists have same-day knowledge about what's going on in a race.



Kerry

IN THE WORLD

4 killed in Turkey train crash

The Associated Press

TAVSANCIL, Turkey — Two trains collided head-on in northwestern Turkey on Wednesday, killing at least four people, injuring 55 others and sending emergency crews in a frantic search for survivors.

Rescue workers in orange and blue jumpsuits, one holding a white body bag, climbed on top of a smashed locomotive that flipped over in the collision near the village of Tavşancıl in Kocaeli province, some 50 miles east of Istanbul.

The accident happened after a train traveling from Ankara to Istanbul ignored a signal and failed to stop at a junction, Cemal Yaman, an official of a local branch of the train workers' union, told the Anatolia news agency. The other train was traveling from Istanbul to Adapazari, officials said.

"One of the trains passed a red



Rescuers work at the scene of a fatal head-on collision of two passenger trains near Tavşancıl in northwestern Turkey on Wednesday.

light," Deputy Prime Minister Abdullah Gül said. "When the (engineer) noticed, he tried to reduce speed but unfortunately the accident occurred."

The train traveling from Ankara was carrying 153 passengers and nine crewmembers, the Anatolia news agency said.

Four passengers were killed and 55 people were injured in the crash, Gül said.

Survivor Mahmut Yaman told CNN-Turk television the accident

happened after his train left Tavşancıl station.

"When I went out of the car, I saw the decapitated body of a conductor trapped at the gate of the locomotive," said Yaman, who had stitches on his head and scratches on his arms.

"I saw the passenger sitting next to me dead. Body pieces were scattered everywhere," he said.

Television footage showed firefighters climbing cars to rescue people. Others could be seen cutting through the side of wrecked cars.

The accident comes just weeks after a newly inaugurated high-speed train from Istanbul to Ankara derailed, killing 37 people — one of the worst train accidents in Turkey. Three days later, a passenger train slammed into a mini-bus at a railroad crossing in western Turkey, killing 15 people and injuring four others.

8 held in Turkey hotel bombings

BY JAMES C. HELICKE

The Associated Press

ISTANBUL, Turkey — Turkish police have detained eight people allegedly linked to Kurdish rebels for bomb attacks against two hotels in Istanbul and a liquefied gas plant, police officials said Wednesday.

A previously unknown Kurdish group claimed responsibility for the pre-dawn bomb attacks Tuesday that killed two people and wounded 11 others. An al-Qaida-linked group also

Another police official, who also spoke on condition of anonymity, said that explosives used in Tuesday's attacks were similar to those used in a July car bombing in eastern Van province that killed three people and wounded two dozen others. That attack was blamed on Kurdish militants, who denied involvement.

The Sabah newspaper, citing police sources, reported on Wednesday that the detonator in the attacks matched the one used in an assassination attempt against the governor of Tunceli province last year. Four Kurdish militants were arrested this week in that attack.

A senior Turkish police official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said Turkish authorities had no information to suggest any links to al-Qaida

The German-based Mezo-potamya News Agency, which has been critical of rebel statements, said Tuesday it received a telephone call from an individual claiming responsibility for the attacks. The name of the Kurdistan Freedom Falcons Organization.

It said the group carried out the attacks because of recent Kurdish military operations against the rebels.

Kurdish rebels battling Turkish troops in the southeast for autonomy have intensified attacks lately. The rebel group, known as KONGRA-GEL but formerly known as the PKK, threatened to target the country's tourism industry and infrastructure when it broke a unilateral cease-fire on June 1, saying Turkey had not responded in kind.

Analysts have said that the rebels appear to have recently split into several factions. It was not immediately clear if the Kurdistan Freedom Falcons Organization was one such group.

U.S. professor released

BEIJING — The United States is protesting China's treatment of a Chinese-born American university professor who was detained for two weeks on espionage charges, calling it harsh and inappropriate, the U.S. Embassy said Wednesday.

Fei-ling Wang's arrest was the latest in a string of cases against academics with ties to the United States. He was arrested July 25 in Shanghai, though the United States was not alerted until Aug. 4. He was released Aug. 8.

Wang, a naturalized American citizen, told U.S. diplomats that he was held in solitary confinement for four days and at times deprived of sleep and water, an embassy spokeswoman said on condition of anonymity.

From The Associated Press

Stars and Stripes Messages of Support

★ We can't even begin to imagine what you are having to endure over there. We lift you up in prayer daily. Thank you for being willing to sacrifice so much for your fellow Americans. May God bless you and grant you His peace, The Cole Family

Stars and Stripes Messages of Support

★ We are so proud of you Cody for helping to preserve freedom. Be safe, and know that we are praying for your safe return home. Stay Brave, Love Your Family in Virginia, Norman, Judy, Anne, Lorraine, Tammy, and Clint Mehling

★ Capt. T. Kluchinsky, Just found out you've been sent overseas. Our thoughts and prayer are with you and your comrades. Keep low, come back safe and Godspeed. T. Holmes

★ To All of Service Men in Iraq and elsewhere in the world defended freedom, we support you every minute and every inch of the way, and that God watches over you all, and brings you all home safely after your victorious work is done, our country is proud of you all... WE SUPPORT YOU.....Walt and Linda. Spfld, IL

★ C. SAINT: I LOVE YOU AND I MISS YOU TERRIBLY!!!! I AM ALWAYS THINKING ABOUT YOU EVERY

SECOND OF EVERYDAY. I KNOW WITH EACH PASSING DAY WE ARE ONE DAY CLOSER UNTIL WE SEE EACH OTHER AGAIN. I LOVE YOU SO MUCH AND I'M SO PROUD OF YOU!!!!!! HANG IN THERE, IT WILL ALL BE OVER SOON!!!! HUGS AND KISSES.....MELISSA

★ To my husband Michael I love you & be safe--always Meka & Mikhaela. 101st

★ Just wanted to send everyone a hearty THANK YOU!!! My family and I are praying for you and thinking about you daily. May GOD bless and keep safe each and every one of you. Sincerely, The Clouse Family

Bob, Dawn, Mandi, Jessica, & Melissa

★ To All US Service Members; God is watching over you and soon will bring you home safely. Thanks for defending us. Pablo R. Perez family.



STARS & STRIPES
Your Hometown Newspaper

Palestinian killed by bomb in West Bank

BY GAVIN RABINOWITZ

The Associated Press

KALANDIA CHECKPOINT, West Bank — Palestinian militants detonated explosives near a busy West Bank checkpoint Wednesday, killing an elderly Palestinian man and wounding 15 people, both Israelis and Palestinians, in the first bombing attack in a month.

Hours after the blast at the Kalandia checkpoint, north of Jerusalem, it remained unclear whether militants had targeted the checkpoint, or detonated the explosives prematurely when being approached by Israeli security forces.

In targeting the checkpoint, where thousands of Palestinians pass every day, the militants would have had to know there was a high probability of Palestinian casualties. In the past, Palestinian bombings, while targeting Israelis, have on occasion killed or wounded Arabs.

Israeli officials gave conflicting accounts on how the explosives were detonated — stashed in a car, planted on the ground or carried by a suicide bomber. About an hour before the explosion, Israeli security forces had received warnings that a Palestinian bomber was en route to Jerusalem, and set up additional checkpoints near Kalandia.

The Al Aqsa Martyrs' Brigades, a violent group with ties to Yasser Arafat's Fatah movement, claimed responsibility. It said it detonated the blast by remote-control to avenge the killing of a leader by Israeli troops last month.

At the scene, black smoke rose from a smoldering car, as firefighters tried to douse the flames, near a pool of blood.

A 60-year-old Palestinian man, Salah Abu Snehneh, was in the blast. Three other members of his family were wounded, including his 6-year-old grandson, Mahdi, who was in critical condition, according to Ramallah hospital officials. Seven more Palestinian bystanders were hurt.



Israeli army soldiers stand next to a pool of blood as they secure the area Wednesday after an explosion next to the Kalandia checkpoint between Jerusalem and the West Bank town of Ramallah. The explosion killed a 60-year-old Palestinian man and wounded 13 people, both Palestinians and Israelis.

Three members of the Israeli border police also were wounded, hospital officials said.

In all, three of the wounded in Israeli hospitals were in serious condition.

Wednesday's bombing was the first since July 11 when Palestinian militants set off explosives near a bus stop in Tel Aviv, killing a soldier and seriously wounding at least five people. In recent months, the pace of Palestinian bombing attacks has slowed considerably, compared to the first three years of the current round of fighting, which began in 2000.

Shanghai finds little success making rain

BY CHRISTOPHER BODEEN

The Associated Press

SHANGHAI, China — Shanghai is trying to make it rain by firing chemicals into clouds in hopes of snapping an electricity-draining heat wave, but early attempts have mostly been a bust, newspapers reported Wednesday.

Rain fell for about 20 minutes in the coastal district of Fengxian following an attempt Tuesday, but temperatures downtown still hit 95 degrees, the reports said.

A first attempt last week was aborted after a cloud seeding plane ran into heavy weather and turned back.

Officials said they were still experimenting.

"The main aim yesterday was to get familiar with the whole process," Wang Jin, an official with the city weather bureau was quoted as saying by the Shanghai Daily.

For decades, China has tried to make rain by firing shells containing silver iodide into clouds from ground artillery or planes.

The chemical helps attract water vapor that turns into rain drops, but scientists aren't sure how effective the technique is at increasing rainfall.

Desperate for cooler temperatures, Shanghai has budgeted \$573,000 for cloud seeding and

has invited experts from the northern province of Heilongjiang to serve as consultants, Shanghai Daily and other papers reported.

Three thousand silver iodide shells have been stored at a military airport in the nearby city of Wuxi, ready for use when clouds are deemed ripe for seeding, the reports said.

Weeks of high temperatures have severely strained Shanghai's electricity grid, already sapped by massive increases in demand from factories and residents who now can afford refrigerators and air conditioners.

The city has forecast an electricity deficit of about 4 million kilowatts this summer — enough power to light 4 million homes.

Thousands of factories have been forced to switch to non-peak hours, and lighting and air conditioning in public places has been turned down. Seeking respite from the heat, poorer residents camp out on sidewalks and parks.

Unusually high temperatures this summer have been blamed for at least 40 deaths across China.

The western city of Chongqing, where officials have ordered air raid shelters opened for people escaping the heat, recorded a high of 102 degrees on Wednesday.

Serbia-Montenegro son to bid farewell to Yugoslav anthem

BY MISHA SAVIC

The Associated Press

BELGRADE, Serbia-Montenegro — "Live, live, spirit! Slave, you will live for centuries," their anthem promised Yugoslavs, when inaugurated in 1945 with the birth of the communist federation of six republics. Now, that hymn is about to follow the nation into oblivion.

Such heroic phrases ring hollow in the ears of Belgrade residents. Reduced to two republics after the mostly violent secession of the others, Yugoslavia was formally replaced last year by Serbia and Montenegro. And worse may still be ahead, with the government of Montenegro determined to cut the last ties and become independent as soon legally feasible.

Some nostalgia lingers for the old Yugoslavia in Serbia, the dominant republic in the old federation. Still, with parliament soon planning to vote out the "Hey Slaveni" ("Hey Slavs"), few in Belgrade appeared surprised Wednesday to see the old anthem go.

"It was a completely communist thing," said retired Dragomir Stevanovic, 74. "I hated it even while there was Yugoslavia."

Milena Blazevic, 51, acknowledged still feeling excited when hearing "Hey Slaveni."

"But it's sad now, it's like a ghost," she told a reporter.

Legislators had planned to vote on retiring the old anthem in favor of the new one on Wednesday. But that was postponed after Montenegro deputies asked for more time to reflect on the measure.

The proposed new anthem takes a segment of a nationalistic Montenegro hymn onto part of the anthem of pre-1918 Serbia.

Still, Serbia and Montenegro are together in name only.

Fittingly, the Serbian part of the musical mix — "Boze Pravde" ("God Give Us Justice") makes no mention of the Montenegrins as it entreats God to "hear Thy Serbian children's voices; be our help as in the past."

In turn, the Montenegrin segment, "Oj, Svijetla Majka Zoro" ("Oh, The Bright May Dawn"), focuses exclusively on the Montenegrins. "Our mother, Montenegro," it says, "We are the sons of your rocks."

Stars and Stripes Messages of Support

★ Acani glad that you are doing something great for your country by being deployed. You've stayed a good friend to me for awhile now and even though things done separated us some, like deployments, relationships, and a few arguments. I want you to know you made a good impression on me cause you are a good person at heart. Make the best out of things over there and stay safe. Your Friend From Ft. Lewis

"Hey Major Shemer (aka Dad)-

We love you!

We miss you!

We hope time will fly!

Oh, and remember, you have souvenirs to buy!

Things aren't the same without you. Call us soon.

Lots of thoughts, prayers, and love,

Bobby, Michael, and Daniel

P.S. "Hey Dad! I love my DaDa! Maria"

★ Our hearts goes out to you all for the hardships you must endure. Please know that you are in our thoughts, and that we wish you all a safe return. Larry & Barbara King

★ I want to join with America in support of our armed forces. I pray daily for their safe return and for a successful outcome for the Iraqi people in winning their freedom. R. Rigopoulos

★ M. Watts: We're praying for you, along with your "real" family, and we think about you every day! Be careful, and don't forget to duck! Donna, James, and Jennifer

★ Take good care of those Marines, they need you more than I do. Fight the good fight and come home safe. Now you are more than just MY hero. I miss you immeasurably and love you so much. Ebb

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Escaped recaptured

TN WHITEVILLE — A convicted murderer serving a life term who escaped was recaptured after a search by more than 70 officers aided by aircraft and dogs.

Tracy Lynn Harris, 26, was apprehended outside Bolivar, Hardeman County Chief Deputy Doug Brown said.

Harris had escaped from the privately owned Hardeman County Correctional Facility in Whiteville, nine miles from Bolivar, by cutting through a chain-link fence. Authorities believe he acted alone.

Harris gave up without a fight, Tennessee Bureau of Investigation spokeswoman Jennifer Johnson said.

"People had called in several sightings throughout the day," Johnson said.

Harris is serving life without parole for the 1998 rape and murder of an 81-year-old woman.

Gov.'s efforts cost state

NE LINCOLN — Nebraska will pay \$141 million for blocking efforts to build a low-level radioactive waste dump but will not be obligated to allow a dump in the state, under the settlement of a lawsuit accepted by a five-state compact.

The dump was to have been built in the northeast part of the state and take waste from the compact, which consists of Nebraska, Kansas, Oklahoma, Louisiana and Arkansas.

U.S. District Judge Richard Kopf in Lincoln had ruled in 2002 that former Nebraska Gov. Ben Nelson, now a U.S. senator, engaged in a politically motivated and orchestrated plot to keep the regional dump from being built in Nebraska.

Kopf ordered Nebraska to pay damages, but did not address the issue of where the dump should be placed.

Beauty queen guilty

MN MINNEAPOLIS — A former beauty queen who collected more than \$190,000 in Social Security benefits by claiming she was disabled was convicted of fraud.

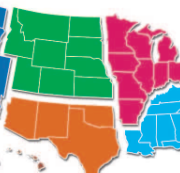
A federal jury found Denise Henderson, 44, guilty of wire fraud and of making false statements and concealing information from the Social Security Administration.

An attorney for Henderson, Mrs. Minnesota International in 1999 and Mrs. Iowa International in 2001, has said she suffers debilitating chronic pain from a 1995 car accident.

Federal prosecutors noted during the trial that Henderson collected benefits while making over 200 appearances as Mrs. Minnesota International in a year. Henderson, of Woodbury, currently serves as a director for several pageants.

According to a report she filed in 1997, Henderson said she had continuous back and neck pain and could not move or straighten up, had migraines four or five times a week that lasted most of a day and could not drive for more than 20 minutes at a time.

Her attorney, Earl Gray, said Henderson's pageants didn't re-



AMERICAN ROUNDUP

quire physical exertion, and she didn't earn a paycheck.

Runoff canceled

GA ATLANTA — The Georgia Supreme Court has canceled a scheduled runoff election for an open seat on the state Court of Appeals, acting in a lawsuit filed by a candidate who fell 382 votes short from advancing to the runoff and whose first name was wrong on some ballots.

Howard Mead challenged the results of the July 20 nonpartisan general election after finishing behind Debra Bernes and Michael Sheffield. He contended in his lawsuit that he was incorrectly listed as Thomas Mead on 481 absentee ballots in Laurens County.

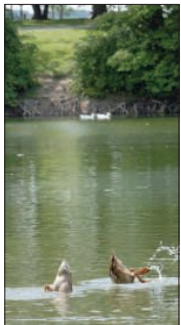
A superior court judge in Cobb County ruled against Mead, contending an incorrect first name on absentee ballots did not call the election results into question.

The top two finishers in the election — Bernes and Sheffield — had been set to face each other in the runoff since no candidate had exceeded the state required 45 percent of the vote to win the seat.

Search ended

CA FAWNSKIN — Authorities called off their search for a 9-year-old boy missing for more than a week in the San Bernardino Mountains after hundreds of deputies and volunteer searchers failed to turn up any trace of him.

David Gonzales was on a camp-



Synchronized feeding

Ducks dive for food in a synchronized pattern at the Smith Park pond in Middletown, Ohio.

ing trip with members of his church July 31 when his mother said she gave him the keys to the family truck so he could get some cookies. The truck was locked with the cookies still inside when his parents discovered he was missing.

For nine days, searchers on foot and horseback, in helicopters, boats and all-terrain vehicles had scoured the sky pine and cedar forest on the edge of Big Bear Lake, about 90 miles east of Los Angeles.

Grisly greeting

ME ROCKLAND — Two Maine State Prison inmates who allegedly conspired to mail a police crime scene photograph of a murder victim's body to his mother in Kennebunk are being tried for harassment.

If found guilty of the misdemeanor, or Steven Schaff, the man who murdered Devin O'Brien in 1996, and Michael Willings could have six months added to their respective sentences.

Debbie O'Brien said the photo showing her son's body stuffed inside the trunk of a car was enclosed with a Thanksgiving themed greeting card. She said she opened the envelope on July 19, 2001, which would have been Devin's 26th birthday.

Inside were the words, "P.S. Thinking of you. Happy birthday." Schaff, 32, is serving 28 years for killing Devin O'Brien on April 25, 1996, in a Lyman gravel pit.

Danger lurks for train

TX HOUSTON — Once called the "train to nowhere," Houston's new rail line in the Astrodome is earning a few new nicknames: "Danger Train," the "Wham Bam Train" and "A Streetcar Named Disaster."

More than 50 collisions have occurred along the 7.5-mile route since it opened in November, prompting residents to keep a running tally on Web sites and transportation experts to suggest raising the line above street level.

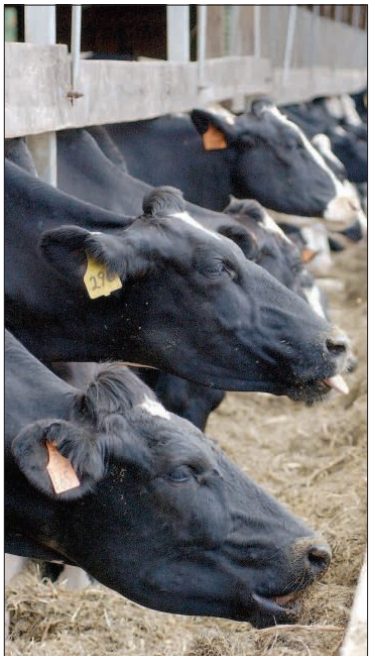
Rail promoters promised the sleek gray trains would take cars off the road, "they've just done it one car at a time," said John Gaver, who started the Wham-Bam-Train counter, a Web site that chronicles each crash.

The MetroRail averages six crashes a month — a rate 20 times worse than the national average for the nation's 17 light rail systems, according to the Federal Transit Administration.

Rating landlords

MI ANN ARBOR — University of Michigan students will be able to rate their landlords online and comment on their housing experience. The Web site is a project of the Michigan Student Assembly. The new site, linked to the University of Michigan's computer network, will let students rate their landlords and the condition of their apartments on a five-point scale and comment on their experiences. The site is expected to be up in September.

Landlords worry that only dissatisfied students will take the time to comment.



Waste not

Matthew Freund's 225 dairy cows produce the raw product and energy required to make a biodegradable fiber pot in East Canaan, Conn.



Wild water

Zephyr Whitewater Expeditions owner Bob Ferguson rides the rapids of the King's River in King's Canyon National Park, Calif.



Budding artist Lauren Winter, 6, draws a picture outside her Dubuque, Iowa, home.



Painful landing Josh McCreadie is thrown from a bull during the Santa Barbara Old Spanish Days Fiesta Stock Horse Show and Rodeo in Santa Barbara, Calif.



Peaceful dive A snorkeler swims at Balmorhea State Park near Toyahvale, Texas. Balmorhea, in the desert, features a spring-fed swimming area with depths to 30 feet and excellent visibility.

Homeless hero

PA UPPER DARBY — A homeless man is being hailed as a hero after chasing down an alleged purse snatcher, tackling him and holding him down until police arrived.

Loretta Ferraro, 68, was in the Chef's Spot restaurant waiting for a friend when she said a man tried to grab the handbag out of her lap. The two engaged in a tug-of-war, but the man prevailed and bolted out the door.

The suspect ended up fleeing right past a homeless shelter where Kevin Runkle had just stepped outside to smoke a cigarette. Runkle said he noticed the commotion and took off after the man, identified by police as Hyo Lee.

Monitoring money instead

FL TALLAHASSEE — Gov. Jeb Bush has eliminated a state program that monitored juveniles under house arrest through electronic ankle bracelets. The program, which cost \$2.2 million annually, covered 8,652 children in the last fiscal year. The decision was a cost-savings effort. Bush spokesman Jacob DePietre said counties could continue the program on their own.

Child protection criticized

TX SAN ANTONIO — Child Protective Services intends to carry out an additional 3,000 investigations during the next fiscal year in the wake of criticism over the handling of several abuse and neglect cases.

Agency officials are planning to conduct 131,700 investigations in the fiscal year that starts in September, up from 128,700 this year, the San Antonio Express-News reported.

The Texas Legislature allocated extra funding last year for the hiring of 356 more caseworkers. The agency hired 178 this fiscal year and plans to hire the rest next year.

GOP opposes measure

CA SAN DIEGO — Capping a three-day state convention, California Republicans voted Sunday to oppose a November ballot measure that would provide \$3 billion in state bonds for human embryonic stem cell research in California.

Although President Bush has cited ethical issues in arguing against the expansion of such research, party members framed their voice vote largely as a budget issue. They said the state can't afford \$3 billion in interest payments that would bring the true cost of Proposition 71 to \$6 billion.

The state's most prominent Republican, Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger, has taken no position on the stem cell ballot measure. He said in June that he supports stem cell research, but he has also campaigned against the state going deeper into debt.

Crushing bathroom crisis

CT NAUGATUCK — A man who believes the town crushed his sewer line says he'll

use the bathroom in Town Hall every morning until the problem is solved.

Robert Antidormi has accused the town of recently laying a storm pipe over his sewer line, causing backups that prevent his family from using their bathroom.

While his wife, Lisa, and three young sons have opted to stay with family out of town, Antidormi is staying put.

"It's not my fault," he told the Republican-American of Waterbury. "It's the town's place to make good on their mistake."

Mayor Ron San Angelo disagrees, saying town residents are responsible for their sewer lines.

Women could win seats

MO JEFFERSON CITY — Voters this fall could elect women to five of the top six statewide offices on the ballot, including governor and state senator, which would be unprecedented in state history. The women running are four Democrats and two Republicans.

Previously, the most female candidates on one general election ballot was three in 1992. The only statewide office on the ballot this year lacking a female nominee is attorney general.

Stomach-turning trip

MD LANHAM — At least 90 people attending a conference at the University of Maryland were taken to hospitals with possible cases of food poisoning, university officials said.

Most of the patients were high school students from across the country attending a leadership conference, university spokesman Ellen Curtis said. They complained of nausea and were taken to hospitals in buses.

Most of the patients were being treated at Doctors Community Hospital, a hospital spokeswoman said. Others were taken to Washington Adventist Hospital, university officials said.

The source of the potentially tainted food was unclear, Curtis said. They had eaten turkey and taco box lunches, though it unclear whether they came from Campus Food Services.

Deadly driving rage

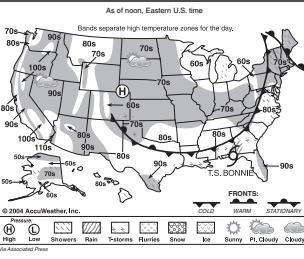
KS WICHITA — A bar patron rammed his pickup truck into several people, killing one and injuring two others, after a fight in the bar moved outside, police said.

Several people who had been kicked out of Champs Bar and Grill after an argument broke out were throwing punches in the parking lot when a man got into his truck and drove into several people, Wichita police Lt. John Speer said.

Speer said the man then drove around the building, striking three vehicles before fleeing.

Police said they arrested a 24-year-old man at his southern Sedgewick County home, and booked him on counts of reckless second-degree murder and attempted reckless second-degree murder.

Photos and stories from wire services



STARS AND STRIPES

Scheduled to ETS or PDCS?

FACES 'N' PLACES

Andrews goes back to her roots

Julie Andrews is coming back to "The Boy Friend." The actress made her Broadway debut in 1954 in Sandy Wilson's spoof of the giddy 1920s musical comedy, and now she is directing a revival of the show.

Andrews is overseeing a production that will open next summer at the Goodspeed Opera House in East Haddam, Conn., and then travel the country. In the original New York production, she played Polly Browne, an English heiress who falls in love with a delivery boy who turns out to be the son of a wealthy nobleman.

The Goodspeed version will play July 15-Sept. 24, 2005, in Connecticut and then tour, beginning in Wilmington, Del., followed by Boston; Greenville, S.C.; Hershey, Pa.; East Lansing, Mich.; Chicago; Green Bay, Wis.; and St. Paul, Minn. More cities will be announced later.

Andrews, best known for starring on Broadway in "My Fair Lady" and "Camelot" as well as in movie musicals such as "Mary Poppins" and "The Sound of Music," first directed "The Boy Friend" last summer in Sag Harbor, N.Y., at the Bay Street Theater, which is run by her daughter, Emma Walton.

Sets and costumes for the new production of "The Boy Friend" will be designed by Andrews' ex-husband, Tony Walton.



Andrews

'Idol' hopefuls flock to St. Louis

Tents and long lines marked the landscape outside the Edward Jones Dome in St. Louis as some 10,000 "American Idol" hopefuls showed up to audition for the Fox television show.

Contestants began lining up Friday, though producers had told singers not to arrive until 6 a.m. Saturday.

St. Louis police Sgt. Ronald Klier said the crowd was orderly — and talented.

"A lot of them brought their guitars. Some of them sang. I'd say they are pretty good," Klier said. "It takes a lot of guts to get in front of people and sing. I admire that."

On Sunday, contestants processed Saturday were to perform for about 30 seconds. From that pool, about 360 singers were expected to go before executive producers Monday. From there, the field will be cut to about 120. Celebrity judges: Simon Cowell, Paula Abdul and Randy Jackson will pick about 30 singers Wednesday to compete against other finalists in California.

The fourth season of "American Idol" will debut in January.

Auditions will be held in the coming months in Washington, Orlando, Fla.; New Orleans; Las Vegas; Anchorage, Alaska; and San Francisco.

Former Eagles bassist hospitalized

Former Eagles bassist Randy Meisner, who co-wrote and sang the rock group's classic "Take It to the Limit," has been hospitalized for chest pains, his manager said.

Meisner, 58, was taken to Providence St. Joseph's Medical Center in Burbank, Calif., on Friday morning, his manager, Kevin White, told The Associated Press.

"He's resting comfortably. He's not experiencing any pain," White said Sunday. "He's doing well."

White said Meisner's wife was at his side and doctors were running a series of tests. Hospital spokesman Brian Greene said he couldn't release any details about Meisner's condition.

Meisner led the Eagles in 1977. He now performs with The World Classic Rockers.

Duff's set catches fire

Teen star Hilary Duff's show at Gwinnett Arena in Atlanta was halted for nearly an hour after an overhead speaker caught fire.

"Duff was six songs into her set Sunday afternoon when the speaker short-circuited, sending her band off stage and prompting some front-row audience members to take cover."

Event planners said no one was hurt.

"This is by far the craziest show I've ever seen," the 16-year-old singer-actress told the audience of 10,000 after staffers had replaced the speaker.



Duff

Not God, just dios



KRT

They may not be Christian rockers, but that's not stopping dios' debut album from gaining popularity. The Hawthorne, Calif., band draws in fans with its melodies that recall groups like the Beach Boys and Radiohead.

BY LEN RIGHI

The Morning Call (Allentown, Pa.)

The question makes the usually sedate Joel Morales laugh out loud: Do people ever mistakenly think dios is a Christian rock band?

"Sometimes," replies the 28-year-old singer-guitarist for the Hawthorne, Calif., dream-pop quintet, a bit of mischief creeping into his voice. "I've never been good at naming anything, so when it came to the band we just said, 'Whatever.' ... We even called ourselves God at one point. ... I always wanted to see a marquee that said, 'Tonight: God.'"

Morales also cops to telling a white lie about the band to avoid potential trouble with the law. "We'd be going through Texas and we'd be pulled over and we'd say we play Christian rock," recalls Morales.

"At first they didn't believe us, but when we told them our name, they said, 'OK, that's cool,' and let us go."

On the strength of a near-perfect self-titled debut full of poignant meditations and mesmerizing melodies that recall both masters past (the Beach Boys, John Lennon, Neil Young) and present (Grandaddy, Radiohead), the name of dios is beginning to spread to other parts of the country.

A certain heavy metal singer who once fronted Black Sabbath has taken notice, too. "Ronnie James Dio's lawyer sent us a cease-and-desist letter," Morales says. "It's kinda funny. He said we would confuse [Dio's] public, so we might make [our name] into an acronym. But hey, Dio has heard of us, so we feel good."

Morales, his brother, guitarist-vocalist Kevin Morales, bassist J.P. Caballero, and keyboardist Jimmy Cabeza De Vaca have been in bands together since 1999. When drummer Jackie Monzon signed on a couple of years ago, the dios jelled.

Growing up, Morales listened exclusively to hip-hop. "L.L. Cool J. Kool Moe Dee, the Beastie Boys — everything up until [Dr. Dre's] 'The Chronic.' That was the last hip-hop record I really liked."

Then, "rock really took over," says Morales. "Nirvana, The Beatles, all sorts of metal, Bowie. And there was a punk-rock phase, too."

As a pre-teen Morales "learned a chord or two" on guitar from his dad, "but then [the movie] 'La Bamba' came out

[in 1987] and I had to learn to play."

Over the last five years Morales built up a stockpile of songs, as did his brother Kevin, who is 7½ years younger. "We decided we needed to get something out, so I sat down with my brother and said, 'You pick five songs, I'll pick five songs and we each pick a cover.'"

Kevin chose Young's "Birds," while Joel picked "You Got Me All Wrong," a Floydian tune by Miguel Mendez, who played with Joel in the Berkeley-based band Tawshabella.

Joel, Kevin and the rest of the band spent the next nine months in a practice space with a home recorder creating "dios."

Although there are no individual songwriting credits —

"We didn't care who got credit for what," says Morales — there is a difference in the content of the brothers' songs. "He [Kevin] writes a lot of love songs as opposed to me," says Morales. "Mine are mostly about self-empowerment, about guys and girls losing each other but not pining about it."

He points to "Nobody's Perfect," which opens the disc and whose first words are, "The wait is over baby, feel free to move."

The song is about a former flame with whom Morales is still friends. "She's heard it," he notes, "but she doesn't know it's about her, and I'm not planning to tell her."

"Betsy, my girlfriend now, knows who it's about, and she's not happy about it, because I haven't written a song about her yet."

The way Morales crafted "All Said & Done" also is instructive.

"Things don't necessarily follow in any order," explains Morales.

"One line means something, the next one something else. ... Overall, it's says you can think you know what you want, but do you really know what you want? ... I try not to be so horribly ironic. But I was listening to a lot of Morrissey at the time I wrote it."

Speaking of Morrissey, dios recently got a big boost from the British moose-rock legend.

"We got offered the opening spot for all five shows he played in late April in L.A.," says Morales.

"But we were in Europe and wouldn't be getting back in time to do all of them. Still, he gave us the final call. We were very flattered. A year ago, we were nobody."

"We even called ourselves God at one point. ... I always wanted to see a marquee that said, 'Tonight: God.'"

Joel Morales
dios singer-guitarist

OPINION

Europe's work to keep Iran honest not done

BY FAREED ZAKARIA

The Washington Post

Who could have imagined that alliance management would be a hot election issue? But it is. John Kerry's repeated plea to restore relations with U.S. allies has struck a chord. The trouble is, if he is elected president, Kerry is going to find that promise hard to keep — at least with America's allies in Europe. Most of them would be delighted to see Kerry win, but that doesn't mean they will be more cooperative on policy issues. Terrorism is understandably on everyone's mind, but there is yet another looming danger over the horizon. Early into a Kerry administration, we could see a familiar sight — a transatlantic crisis — except this time it wouldn't be over Iraq but Iran.

The threat to the United States from Iraqi weapons of mass destruction, if they ever existed, is in the past. Iran, however, is the problem of the future. Over the past two years, thanks to tips from Iranian opposition groups and investigations by the International Atomic Energy Agency, it has become clear that Iran is seeking to develop nuclear weapons. In the IAEA's words, Iran has "a practically com-

plete front-end of a nuclear fuel cycle," which leads most experts to believe it is two to three years away from having a nuclear bomb.

European countries were as worried by this development as Washington, and because the United States has no relations with Iran, Europe stepped in last fall and negotiated a deal with Tehran. It was an excellent agreement, under which Iran pledged to stop developing fissile material (the core ingredient of a nuclear bomb) and to keep its nuclear program transparent. The only problem is, Iran has recently announced that it isn't going to abide by the deal. One month ago the IAEA condemned Iran for its failure to cooperate. Tehran then announced that it would resume work in prohibited areas.

That's where things stand, with the clock ticking fast. If Iran were to go nuclear, it would have dramatic effects. It would place nuclear materials in the hands of a radical regime that has ties to unsavory groups, and it would revolutionize the Middle East. Saudi Arabia and Egypt would feel threatened by Iran's bomb and would start their own search for nuclear technology. (Saudi Arabia probably could not make a bomb but it could certainly buy necessary technology from a country such as Paki-

stan. In fact, we don't really know all of the buyers who patronized Pakistani scientist Abdul Qadeer Khan's nuclear supermarket. It's possible Saudi Arabia already has a few elements of such a program.)

And then there is Israel, which has long perceived Iran as its greatest threat. It is unlikely to sit passively while Iran develops a nuclear bomb. The powerful Iranian politician Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani has publicly speculated about a nuclear exchange with Israel. If Iran's program went forward, at some point Israel would almost certainly try to destroy it with airstrikes, as it did on Iraq's reactor in Osirak. Such an action would, of course, create a massive political crisis in the region.

In the face of these dangers, Europe seems remarkably passive. Having burst into action last fall, it does not seem to know what to do now that Iran has rebuffed its efforts. It is urging negotiations again, which is fine. But what is the threat that it is willing to wield?

Last month the Brookings Institution conducted a scenario study mostly for American and European officials. In it, Iran acquires fissile material. Even facing imminent production of a nuclear bomb, Europeans were unwilling to take any robust measures. James Stein-



berg, a senior Clinton administration official who organized this workshop, said that he was "deeply frustrated by European attitudes." Madeleine Albright, who regularly convenes a discussion group of former foreign ministers, said that on this topic, "Europeans say they understand the threat but then act as if the real problem is not Iran but the United States."

U.S. policy toward Iran is hardly blameless. Washington refuses even to consider the possibility of direct talks with Iran, let alone actual relations. Europeans could present Washington with a plan.

They would go along with a bigger stick if Washington would throw in a bigger carrot: direct engagement with Tehran. This is something Tehran has long sought, and it could be offered in return for renouncing its nuclear ambitions.

But for any of this to happen, Europe must be willing to play an active, assertive role. It must stop viewing itself merely as a critic of U.S. policy and instead see itself as a partner, jointly acting to reduce the dangers of nuclear proliferation. And it should do this not as a favor to John Kerry but as a responsibility to its own citizens and those of the world.

McCain's split loyalties confuse candidates, voters

WASHINGTON Sen. John McCain should decide when he is for in the presidential race — George W. Bush or his old Senate pal, John Kerry, whose Vietnam record he is constantly defending, seemingly as a shared experience.

Dan Thomasson



It is one thing to criticize fellow Vietnam veterans who challenge the heroism of Kerry's short stint in the Mekong Delta. It is quite another to lay the blame for these allegations at the doorstep of the man you contend you are unequivocally supporting for another four years in the White House and whose campaign you will physically join.

That is exactly what the Arizona lawmaker did the other day when he suggested that it was up to the president to rebuke a series of ads by a group of fellow veterans alleging that Kerry has seriously distorted the facts about his record as a highly decorated Swift boat commander during four and a half months in Vietnam. The White House has made it a point not to criticize the Massachusetts senator about the service, which has become a central theme of his campaign. While declining to condemn the ads specifically, presidential aides answered McCain by calling for an end to all outside attack ads, including those sponsored by Kerry supporters.

Kerry has been able to hold off spending any of his \$75 million in public funds for the campaign before Labor Day by relying on these outside ads that are sponsored by independent groups and the Democratic Party and fall through the cracks of legislation to reform campaign funding. Without them, he would have to dip into his restricted public

funds a month ahead of Bush, who won't officially accept the nomination until early next month. Under the law, a candidate must limit his spending to his public funds once he accepts the nomination, which, of course, Kerry did in Boston.

The whole thing is a travesty and one ironically set in motion by McCain, a key sponsor of the reform law, whose almost decade-long crusade against the use of "soft" money (unlimited contributions not spent in conjunction with any campaign) has changed the political landscape for the worse. Democrats, who generally supported the new law, suddenly found their party machinery and their candidates hamstringing and unable to match the Republicans in individual contributions.

But a major loophole allowed the birth of groups designated as 527s that can pick up the slack without missing a beat as long as they are separate from a specific campaign and stick to issues that just happen to be the pet of their candidate's making. Confused? There is no need to be. Just understand that the business of seeking the presidency this

year will be the most expensive ever and is likely to go up from there in the decades to come.

Supporters of both candidates are involved in what is becoming a landmark in negativism. The questioning of Kerry's record by a group of his fellow Swift boat veterans is little different from commercials that criticize Bush's immediate reaction to the news that a plane had hit the World Trade Center, the seven minutes he continued to read to children after hearing it — a silly allegation of negligence put forth by the silly propaganda filmmaker Michael Moore, who has gotten rich from it. Neither candidate should approve of these tactics.

In all deference, Kerry's service, as perilous as it was, seems pale in comparison with McCain's years of torture and hardship as a prisoner in North Vietnam. Actually, while McCain was suffering and refusing to bend to the will of his captors, Kerry was renouncing his own service and helping to lead anti-war activists, charging without proof that American troops routinely

committed atrocities.

So why does McCain, who has proclaimed fealty to Bush, find it necessary to take up the cudgels for Kerry? Without assigning subversive motives to the good senator, one might suggest that he really never has been enamored of Bush, who beat him for the Republican nomination four years ago. He even may have considered far more seriously than he has publicly allowed Kerry's overture to be his running mate on a hybrid ticket. Then again, he seems to constantly need to bolster his reputation as the party's major iconoclast and dissident, taking stands that are often contrary to GOP policy or doctrine and jumping unsolicited into controversies.

That is all well and good. But McCain should decide whether he is as wholeheartedly in support of Bush, as he claims, or whether he just isn't more comfortable with his Senate buddy and fellow veteran.

Otherwise, he is in danger of becoming just another vacillating politician.

Dan Thomasson is former editor of Scripps Howard News Service.

Mallard Fillmore

BY BRUCE TINSLEY



Horoscope

The moon in Cancer encourages us to work from home or possibly work on the home. Mars now in Virgo will wind up teaching us that in order to make progress in our lives we must stop judging those who already have what we want. Turn feelings of envy into powerful motivators. The finer points are what will determine a win or a loss.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY

(August 12). This year is filled with wonder — you'll feel you don't quite know where things are leading, but you're surprised and delighted by what you find around the corner. Keep your intentions clear, and tell everyone what you want in September.

December brings the stimulation you needed to make an exciting change. Take a fabulous vacation in January.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). If you're planning on extending your realm of influence by reaching out to new people, you've made a wise decision. New connections are easily made, and their pursuit also brings about romance, financial gain and entertainment.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Efforts to look better are not made in vain. You take pride in your public image and your personal appearance. Enhanced self-esteem will benefit your health, whereas a lack of self-confidence drains your vitality.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Gregarious and outgoing, you'll attract love by being outgoing and widely accepting of others. At work, you may be privy to classified information — the power is in your hands.

A relative gives you a blessing in disguise.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Doubt and suspicion needn't be companions for too long, even if they show up early on. You'll soon be vindicated on an emotional family issue. Be alone for a few hours if you can.

Psychic powers are strong.
LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Self-motivation is lower than usual, so it's good to have encouraging friends

near. Attend gatherings and socialize. Get involved in stimulating community work or a spirited discussion; a worthwhile pastime helps you relax.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22).

You've got your eye on the big picture, but remember, success is in the small wins. Do not dismiss a family problem; it must be handled immediately. Luxury and opulence are part of the fun tonight.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Stick to the plan, and you'll move forward. You are well prepared for increased responsibility, as long as recognition goes with it — is it so bad to want to be acknowledged for your work? You certainly deserve it.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Rely on intuition; following your nose is lucky. Get ready for some new friends, perhaps from a faraway place. The course of true love runs straight, but the bills still have to be paid. Decide who is responsible for what.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Communication is the way to understanding. Listen to the voice of experience. Some good shopping tips come from a surprising source. Concentrate, and find ways to budget for a desired object.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). The outcome of events that surround you now depends solely upon your attitude. Free your home and your emotions from dusty cobwebs. It's a good bet that you'll hear from or visit with distant family. Be patient.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). There's fun with a friend who may turn out to be a romance. A living partner who is also a friend is exactly what you need to stimulate your life. Financially, there's a chance to gain through better use of what you already have.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Solid groundwork, though it may be tedious at times, is the way to create good fortune. Flirty relationships are favored, as is finding a way to enjoy the evening that is inexpensive but entertaining. Hobbies are most rewarding.

Creators Syndicate

Joyce Jillson



Calvin and Hobbes



Jump Start



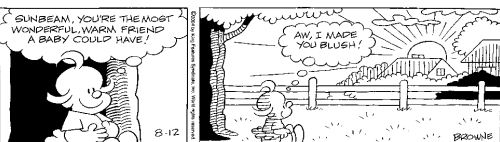
Zits



Cathy



Hi and Lois



Beetle Bailey



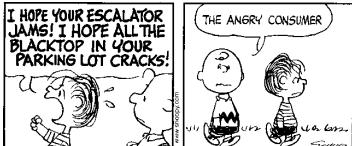
Red and Rover



Better or Worse



Peanuts



Fotrot



B.C.



Baby Blues



Spider Man



Blondie



Dilbert



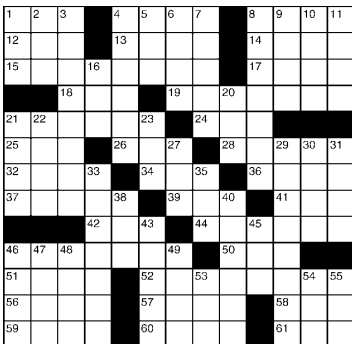
Hagar



Garfield



Eugene Sheffer Crossword



Across

- 1 Apiece
- 4 Domesticate
- 8 Prejudice
- 12 "The Greatest"
- 13 Paradise
- 14 Tend texts
- 15 CSA capital
- 17 Say it isn't so
- 18 Ball in a gym
- 19 Toothed
- 21 Nicholson wears them
- 24 Pair
- 25 Noted space station
- 26 Pirates' potable
- 28 He hit his 3,000th in 1999
- 32 Probability
- 34 Treasure seeker's aid
- 36 Marathon fraction
- 37 "Beau —"
- 41 Born
- 42 Wide st.
- 44 Prrrl
- 46 On the other hand
- 50 "Le Coq —"
- 51 Ardor
- 52 Big name in rubber
- 56 Dixie Chicks' "Goodbye —"
- 57 Calm before the storm
- 58 Runner Sebastian
- 59 Sea eagle

Down

- 1 Standard
- 2 Yale student
- 3 "Seinfeld" cast member
- 4 Mood
- 5 Big bother
- 6 — rea (criminal intent)
- 7 Over and done with
- 8 Word with eyes or community
- 9 Conception
- 10 "— We Got Fun?"
- 11 Eyelid woe
- 16 Scuttle
- 20 Massage
- 21 Urban blight
- 22 Conceal
- 23 Bottom line
- 27 WWE surface
- 29 Former House Speaker
- 30 Merriment
- 31 Crystal gazer
- 33 Surprise suddenly
- 35 School of dolphins
- 38 Enos' granny
- 40 Walk like a duck
- 43 Two under
- 44 1-Down
- 45 Postal Creed word
- 46 Roller-coaster outcry
- 47 Get wind of
- 48 Make
- 49 Liquid entree
- 53 Flamenco call
- 54 Bill's partner
- 55 Chop

Answer to Previous Puzzle



8-12

CRYPTOQUIP

GS LZQN LSGSUWGGD.
UHG UW XCGWSQ LZN
UWYBGICPPN XH GBSCYBG

SI ZD Z GSSG ISU Z GSSG.
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: WHEN A MARRIAGE CEREMONY BECOMES REALLY DULL, I GUESS THAT'S A WEDDING BLAND.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: S equals O

SCOREBOARD

AFL schedule

All times Central European time. AFL: All-American; PAC: Pan-Pacific/Korea; SPT: Sports Illustrated; delayed; 15-minute or 90-minute cut-down. Listings are latest available from AFLTS and subject to change without notice.

Television

Australian Rules Football — 7 a.m. Friday (d) SPT.

Baseball — N.Y. Yankees at Texas, 9 a.m. (d) SPT; St. Louis at Florida, 1 p.m. Thursday; N.Y. Yankees at Texas, 2 p.m. Friday, Aug. 13; SPT; St. Louis at Pittsburgh, 9 a.m. Friday (d) SPT; St. Louis at Atlanta, 1 p.m. Friday (d) SPT; St. Louis at Atlanta, 2 p.m. Saturday; SPT; Kansas City at Oakland, joined in progress, 4:30 a.m. Saturday (d) SPT.

Golf — 86th PGA Championship. First round in progress at 5:30 p.m. Friday, Aug. 13; SPT; Second round, 8 a.m. Friday, Aug. 13; SPT.

Olympics (Note: Telecasts listed as "live" at myafn.net feature live feeds of the event's non-developed coverage of events which concluded earlier that day, turn to local TV outlets for real-time coverage.) Preview, 1 p.m. Thursday; SPT, opening ceremony, 6 a.m. Saturday, Aug. 14. (d) AFL and A-FN.

Pre-football — NFL preseason: Atlanta at Baltimore, 7 p.m. Friday, AFL-FN.

Radio

(Listings are feeds from AFL in California. Some might not be in all areas.)

Baseball — N.Y. Yankees at Texas, 2 a.m. Friday.

Baseball — 2:05 p.m. Friday, Aug. 13. AFL-Europe can be reached at DSN 329-4444 or German call 056-444-444. Commercial calls from outside Germany must go through the initial zero after country code 0049. AFL-Atlantic Web site is www.aflatlantic.net. Click on "livefeed" or "radio" for latest schedules. AFL's parent company, AFLTS, at 1000 413-2139. Web site is www.myafn.net.

Pro soccer

Major League Soccer

Eastern Conference

	W	L	T	PTS	GF	GA
MetStars	5	5	12	14	24	24
Columbus	5	6	7	25	20	30
D.C. United	5	8	7	21	24	30
Chicago	4	8	7	19	24	24
New England	4	8	7	19	24	24

Western Conference

	W	L	T	PTS	GF	GA
Los Angeles	9	6	13	35	31	30
Kansas City	6	5	12	28	18	18
Dallas	7	7	5	26	24	24
Colorado	6	8	6	26	18	18
San Jose	6	8	24	20	20	20

NOTE: Three points for victory, one point for tie.

Sunday's game

MetStars/3, Los Angeles/4

Wednesday's games

Colorado/D.C. United

New England at Dallas

San Jose at Kansas City

Saturday, Aug. 14

San Jose at Kansas City

Sunday, Aug. 15

Dallas at MetStars

Tennis

Idea Prokom Open

Wednesday
At Sopot: Kucharski
Sopot, Poland.

Purse: Men, \$500,000 (1st hr. Series);
Women, \$300,000 (1st hr. Series).
Surface: Clay-Outdoor

Men's Singles

Second Round
Rafael Nadal (6), Spain, def. Arnaud Di Pasquale (6), France, 6-2, 6-4.
Juan Monaco, Argentina, def. Marc Rosset, Switzerland, 6-4, 6-3.
Nicola Pietrangeli, Spain, def. Marat Safin (3), Russia, 6-3, 6-2.

Women's Singles

Second Round

Lubomira Kurhajcova, Slovakia, def. Elena Birnecova (6), Russia, 6-2, 6-0.
Marta Marrero (10), Spain, def. Eva Dimerova (6), Czech Republic, 6-4, 6-2.
Iveta Benesova (3), Czech Republic, def. Silvia Llagostera (6), Spain, 6-4, 6-2.
Marta Domachowska, Poland, def. Anna Smashnina-Pistoleva (2), Israel, 7-4 (4), 6-1.
Nuria Llagostera Vives, Spain, def. Ludmila Cernanova, Slovakia, 6-7 (5), 6-3, 7-5.
Flavia Pennetta (1), Italy, def. Flavia Pennetta (1), Italy, 6-4, 6-2.
Vera Douchneva, Russia, 7-6 (3), 3-6, 6-4.

Men's Doubles

First Round

Rafael Nadal (6), Spain, def. Victor Hanesescu (6), Romania, 6-4, 6-2.
David Ferrer (3), Spain, def. Guillermo Garcia-Lopez (6), Spain, 6-4, 6-2.
Pablo Squitieri, Argentina, def. Tomas Zang, Spain, 6-4, 6-2.
Albert Portas, Spain, def. Martin Vassallo Arguello, Italy, 6-4, 6-2.
Arnaud Di Pasquale, France, def. Alex Calatrava (6), Spain, 6-4, 6-2.
Felix Mantilla, Spain, def. Albert Montanes (7), Spain, 6-0, 6-2.
Marat Safin (3), Russia, def. Galo Hernandez, Spain, 7-6 (5), 6-2.
Marc Lopez, Spain, def. Oscar Hernandez, Spain, 7-6 (5), 6-2.
Alex Accascio, Argentina, def. Michal Przyslynski, Poland, 7-6 (5), 6-2.

Women's Doubles

First Round

Nuria Llagostera Vives, Spain, def. Zsolt Gajdos, Hungary, 6-4, 6-2.
Silvia Tignati, Croatia, def. Selma Sfar, Tunisia, 6-4, 6-2.
Klara Koulikova (1), Czech Republic, def. Lubomira Kurhajcova, Slovakia, def. Alicia Kikić (6), Serbia, 6-4, 6-2.
Vera Douchneva, Russia, def. Katerina Blazekova, Ukraine, 6-4, 6-2.
Iveta Benesova (3), Czech Republic, def. Maria Pavlou (6), Greece, 6-4, 6-2.
Vera Douchneva, Russia, def. Katerina Blazekova, Ukraine, 6-4, 6-2.
Lubomira Kurhajcova, Slovakia, def. Michal Pavlikova, Czech Republic, 6-4, 6-2.
Vera Douchneva, Russia, def. Sandra Manic, Croatia, 6-1, 6-2.

Vancouver Women's Open

Tuesday

At The Jericho Tennis Club
Vancouver, British Columbia
Purse: \$110,000 (1st hr. Series)
Surface: Hard-Outdoor

Men's Singles

First Round
Marissa Irvin (5), United States, def. Melior T. United States, 6-2, 6-2.
Camille Pin, France, def. Severine Beltrame, France, 6-4, 6-2.
Peng Shuai, China, def. Nathalie Grandin, South Africa, 6-4, 6-1, 6-4.
Jill Hahn (6), Russia, def. Vanina Garbino, Argentina, 5-7, 7-5, 6-1.
Elena Birnecova (6), United States, def. Ludmila Skavronskaya, Russia, 6-3, 6-4.
Nicola Pietrangeli, Spain, def. Maria Pavlou (6), Greece, 6-4, 6-2.
Albert Portas, Spain, def. Marc Lopez, Spain, 6-4, 6-2.
Sedi Karantchichev, Bulgaria, def. Yuka Yoshida, Japan, 6-2, 6-3.

Women's Singles

First Round
Marissa Irvin (5), United States, def. Melior T. United States, 6-2, 6-2.
Camille Pin, France, def. Severine Beltrame, France, 6-4, 6-2.
Peng Shuai, China, def. Nathalie Grandin, South Africa, 6-4, 6-1, 6-4.
Jill Hahn (6), Russia, def. Vanina Garbino, Argentina, 5-7, 7-5, 6-1.
Elena Birnecova (6), United States, def. Ludmila Skavronskaya, Russia, 6-3, 6-4.
Nicola Pietrangeli, Spain, def. Maria Pavlou (6), Greece, 6-4, 6-2.
Albert Portas, Spain, def. Marc Lopez, Spain, 6-4, 6-2.
Sedi Karantchichev, Bulgaria, def. Yuka Yoshida, Japan, 6-2, 6-3.

Pro basketball

WNBA

	W	L	CT	Pct	GB
New York	13	12	52.0	—	—
Connecticut	13	14	48.1	—	—
Detroit	13	14	48.1	—	—
Charlotte	12	14	46.2	1½	—
Washington	12	14	46.2	1½	—
Indiana	15	14	44.4	2	—

Western Conference

	W	L	CT	Pct	GB
Los Angeles	17	7	58.0	1½	—
Seattle	11	11	57.7	4	—
Minnesota	12	14	46.2	—	—
Phoenix	12	14	46.2	—	—
San Antonio	12	14	46.2	—	—
San Antonio	6	20	23.1	13	—

Thursday's game

U.S. Nationals/4, WNBA All-Stars/58

Wednesday, Sept. 1

Indiana at Washington
Connecticut at Charlotte
Phoenix at Detroit
Dallas at Houston
Sacramento at Seattle
San Antonio at Los Angeles

Olympics

Wednesday's scores

SOCCER
Germany & China 0
United States 3, Greece 0
Brazil 1, Australia 0
Japan 1, Sweden 0

Deals

Tuesday's transactions

BASEBALL

AMERICAN LEAGUE
ANAHIM HARRIS—Activated off Inj. from team for assignment. Purchased the contract of RHP John Ennis from Toledo of the PCL.

SEATTLE SEA DOGS—Opted \$55 Angel Berro to Wichita of the Texas League. Released \$55 Andre Blanco and RHP Jorge Lopez from Wichita. Opted RHP Ryan Buehler to Omaha of the PCL.

MINNESOTA TWINS—Opted RHP Aaron Buehler from Omaha. Recalled RHP Matt Guerrier from Rochester.

OAKLAND ATHLETICS—Placed RHP Chad Bradford on the 15-day DL. Purchased the contract of RHP John Ennis from Toledo of the PCL.

SEATTLE MARINERS—Purchased the contract of RHP Bouchiech from Tacoma of the PCL. Opted RHP Cha Seung Bak to Toledo.

National League

ATLANTA BRAVES—Named Ericka Brenson director of community affairs.

ATLANTA BRAVES—Signed Marty Breaumen, radio broadcaster, to a three-year contract starting during the 2007 season. Reinstated RHP John Riedling from the bereavement list.

COLORADO ROCKIES—Activated LHP Joe Kinsler on the 15-day DL. Placed C Tim Lincecum on the 15-day DL. Designated RHP Travis Orloff for assignment. Called up C D. Orloff from Colorado Springs.

BOSTON ASTROS—Placed LHP Darren Olt on the 15-day DL. Opted RHP Tim Lincecum from the 15-day DL. Recalled RHP Chad Qualls and LHP Carlos Hernandez from New Orleans.

PALM BEACH PATRIOTS—Activated RHP Scott Padilla from the 15-day DL. Added RHP Cory Lidle to the 25-man roster. Sent RHP Gary Gay to San Antonio. Released the DL. Designated RHP Pablo Abaiti for assignment.

BASKETBALL

National Basketball Association

CLEVELAND CAVALIERS—Wanted C Steven Hunter.

SACRAMENTO KINGS—Signed F David Bluthenthal.

FOOTBALL

National Football League

CINCINNATI BENGALS—Signed RB Chris Perry.

MINNESOTA VIKINGS—Wanted PK Seth Martin.

SAN FRANCISCO 49ERS—Released OL Khaliq Turner.

SEATTLE SEAHAWKS—Agreed to terms with DT Marcus Tubbs.

TAMPA BAY BUCCANERS—Signed WR Tim Brown.

HOCKEY

National Hockey League

CHICAGO BLACKHAWKS—Re-signed LW Dale Mitchell.

DALLAS STARS—Signed F Jaroslav Svoboda to a one-year contract.

MONTREAL CANADIENS—Signed RW Andre Kostitsyn to a three-year contract.

NEW YORK RANGERS—Signed F Michael Nylander to a three-year contract. Re-signed F Janne Niemi to a one-year contract.

OTTAWA SENATORS—Re-signed D Zdeno Chára to a three-year contract.

TORONTO MAPLE LEAFS—Re-signed D Tomas Kaberle to a two-year contract.

Hamm leads U.S. women over Greece

BY JOSEPH WHITE

The Associated Press

IRAKLION, Greece — Mia Hamm began her final Olympics with a stutter-step that left her embarrassed Greek defender sprawling on the grass.

Hamm then calmly passed the ball to Shannon Boxx, who scored the goal that sent the U.S. women's soccer team on its way to a comfortable 3-0 victory over Greece on Wednesday on the first day of competition in the 2004 Olympic Games.

Hamm later added a goal of her own, outmaneuvering two defenders for a 16-yard shot that banked off the left post. In the end, Abby Wambach continued her remarkable scoring run with her 15th goal in 16 games as the Americans overcame a battered team that qualified for the tournament only because it represents the host nation.

Women's soccer is barely recognized in Greece, and eight of the team's 18 players are Greek-Americans who have played for U.S. colleges. The Americans outshot their opponents 26-1, and Greece's lone shot was wide of the net. Rebecca Scully got her 70th career shutout without having to make a save.

The U.S. team, looking to re-establish its supremacy after disappointing finishes in the 2000 Olympics and 2003 World Cup, continues first-round play Saturday against the Netherlands in the only Olympic sport that begins play before Friday's opening ceremony.

The lack of enthusiasm for women's soccer in Greece was evident in the disappointing crowd at kickoff in the seaside, fully renovated Pankratiou Stadium on the island of Crete. More than two-thirds of the 27,000 seats were empty when the game began, although the cheer end zone seats were nearing capacity in the second half, raising the announced attendance to 15,757. Spontaneous chants of "Greece! Greece!" failed to rally the home team.

Greece actually took the first shot of the game, but their players' adrenaline kept them competitive for only a few minutes.

The Americans were soon dominating possession with crisp passes all over the field. Abby Wambach broke the crossbar in the fifth minute, and Boxx hit the right post two minutes later.

Then Hamm went to work on Angeliki Lagoumtzi, shaking the Greek defender completely off balance on the left flank. With Lagoumtzi on the ground, Hamm had a clear alley for her pass to Wambach or Boxx in the center of the penalty area. Wambach left the ball go between her legs, allowing to Boxx to nail the 12-yard shot to the left of goalkeeper Maria Giakoumaki.

In the 82nd minute, Hamm stole the ball to set up a solo run for her 152nd goal in international play, by far the world record. She scored the penalty in the 1991 World Cup veterans who are playing in their final tournament together.

Spurs re-sign Horry

The Associated Press

SAN ANTONIO — Forward Robert Horry, owner of five NBA championship rings, re-signed with the San Antonio Spurs on Thursday. Terms were not released.

The deal came a day after San Antonio signed a pair of power forwards: 12-year veteran Tony Massenburg and Sean Marks, who spent last season on the Spurs' free-agent list.

The 6-foot-10 Horry, who turns 34 this month, averaged 4.8 points and 3.4 rebounds in 81 games with San Antonio last season.

He also played in all 10 of the Spurs' playoff games, averaging 6.1 points and 6.3 rebounds.

But last month the team declined to exercise its \$5 million option to keep Horry, making him an unrestricted free agent.

Horry, going into his 13th NBA season, picked up leagues titles with the Houston Rockets in 1994 and 1995, then three more with the Los Angeles Lakers in 2000, 2001 and 2002.

The Spurs originally signed him to fill a need for clutch shooting after the Lakers opted to let

NBA briefs

him become a free agent. For his career, Horry has averaged 10.4 points, 5.2 rebounds and 2.4 assists in 856 games. His postseason averages are slightly higher.

He ranked second in NBA Finals history with 38.3 pointers, trailing only Michael Jordan. Among active players, Horry ranks 10th in playoff points and sixth in rebounds.

Kings sign Bluthenthal

SACRAMENTO, Calif. — The Sacramento Kings signed former USC forward David Bluthenthal to a contract Tuesday.

Bluthenthal, a 6-foot-7, 220-pound free agent, played in Israeli this past season for Maccabi Tel-Aviv of the Euroleague. He averaged 10.4 points and 1.3 rebounds in 17 games.

Bluthenthal has never played in the NBA although he has played on summer league teams for the Miami Heat and Toronto Raptors. He averaged 16.3 points and 4.5 rebounds in seven games for the Kings' summer league team this year.

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BOOTH 100 Executive Furniture

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McNAMARA

Americans seek another pool party

Hopes are high to improve team's epic performance in 2000 Games

By BETH HARRIS
The Associated Press

Four years ago, there were grim predictions about America's swimming prospects in the Sydney Games.

The Australians had home-pool advantage and seemed poised to take over as the world's dominant power. What did the U.S. team do? Put on one of the great performances in Olympic history: 14 golds and 33 medals overall.

No one is talking doom and gloom this time. If anything, the Americans are expecting to do even better in sweltering Athens, where there will be no roof over the pool for the first time since the 1992 Barcelona Games.

"This could be one of the strongest teams since the '76 team," said Eddie Reese, the U.S. Olympic men's coach.

"Since that time, the other nations in the sport have gotten a lot better, and the speed of the sport has gotten a lot better."

In the 1976 Montreal Games, the Americans won 13 golds and 34 medals, a total they matched in the 1984 Los Angeles Games.

In Athens, much of the pressure and attention will be on the broad shoulders of 19-year-old Michael Phelps, who hopes to break Mark Spitz's record of seven golds in one Olympics.

"I find it interesting that someone has decided to take that challenge, and I think it's a great opportunity for Michael," said Spitz, who met Phelps for the first time in the U.S. trials in Long Beach, Calif. "It's a great opportunity for all of us to have something to talk about, watch and focus on."

Phelps, who didn't win a medal in Sydney, is expected to swim in five individual events and possibly all three relays. If he equals or breaks Spitz's record, the Baltimore teen will earn a \$1 million

bonus from his swimsuit sponsor.

"I told him that Speedo offered Ian Crocker \$300,000 to keep him from getting the seven golds, and he laughed," Reese said.

Phelps won't be a one-man show in Athens.

Brendan Hansen set two world records in the breaststroke events in the U.S. trials. Aaron Peirsol and Crocker defeated Phelps with world-record performances. Phelps set one world mark during the eight-day meet that was designed to match the schedule in Athens.

Gary Hall Jr., who made his third Olympic team, also is a strong contender for gold in his specialty, the 50-meter freestyle. And Phelps' teammates won't be the only ones eager to derail his quest.

The Australians, led by Ian Thorpe, have assembled another imposing team. The man nicknamed "Thorpedo" will swim the 100, 200 and 400 freestyles, as well as three relays.

"There'll be just as much focus on me in Athens as what there was in Sydney," said Thorpe, who won three golds in his home country. "I think the pressure will be virtually the same."

One of swimming's showcase events will be the 200 freestyle final on Aug. 16.

World record holder Thorpe, Aussie teammate Grant Hackett, defending Olympic champion Pieter van den Hoogenband of the Netherlands, and Phelps will meet in that race — the only head-to-head matchup between Thorpe and Phelps.

"I love to race the best field. It's exciting," Phelps said. "I'm not going to worry about all five of the individual events."

Hackett and Aussie teammate Kieren Perkins are expected to dominate the distance events again, while Russian sprinter Alexander Popov will be back to challenge Hall and van den Hoogenband.

SUMMER GAMES ATHENS 2004

Spitz and great world swimmers

Mark Spitz's remarkable seven golds in the 1972 Munich Games stands as the best swimming performance in one Olympics.

Most gold-winning swimmers

9

Gold

Mark Spitz, U.S., 1968, 1972

8

Matt Biondi, U.S., 1984, 1988, 1992

5

Johnny Weissmuller, U.S., 1924, 1928

Don Schollander, U.S., 1964, 1968

4

Charlie Daniels, U.S., 1904, 1908

Roland Matthes, East Ger., 1968, 1972

Aleksandr Sainikov, USSR 1980, 1988

Vladimir Popov, Rus., 1992, 1996

Tamás Darnyi, Hun., 1988, 1992

Murray Rose, Australia 1956, 1960

John Naber, U.S., 1976

Note: Includes medals won in relay events, but does not include medals awarded in swimmer participated in preliminary relays but not in the finals

Mark Spitz

© 2004 KRT
Source: International Olympic Committee, KRT Photo Services
Graphic: Earl Pelt, Jacob Janney

The men's relays might result in another Australian-United States showdown.

The Aussies shocked the Americans by winning the 400 freestyle relay in 2000 — the U.S.'s first Olympic loss in the event.

Australia also won the 800 freestyle relay, beating the Americans by a whopping five seconds.

In all, the Australians won five golds and 18 medals in the Sydney Games while swimming in front of more than 18,000 screaming fans every night.

"The past few years we've come closer and closer to the Aussies," Phelps said. "I'm feeling fairly confident going into the Games. Hopefully, we can give them a race."

The American women have lower expectations than their male counterparts because the women are far behind the best times in the world.

"We need to improve a lot between the trials and the Games," U.S. women's coach Mark Schubert said.

They have a blend of experienced veterans and promising newcomers.

Jenny Thompson, who made her fourth Olympic team, is seeking her first individual Olympic medal to go with 10 career medals, including eight golds in relays. Her best medal chances, however, will be in the relays.

"I feel like I'll be complete whether I win an individual gold medal or not," she said. "I'm just going to try to soak up as much of the atmosphere as possible."

Lindsay Benko and first-time Olympian Natalie Coughlin will provide experience, too.

"On paper, we aren't dominant in every event," Thompson said. "My experience is we really rally around each other. We perform better because of the strength of

the team."

Coughlin, expected to emerge as a star in Athens, will focus on just the 100 freestyle and 100 backstroke, even though she would have been a strong medal contender in several others.

"I feel it's better for me to do really well in two or three events rather than mediocre in four or five," she said.

The 100 freestyle final pitted Coughlin against defending Olympic champion Inge de Bruijn of the Netherlands and 2000 silver medalist Therese Alshammar of Sweden.

"Out of the top six fastest people ever, five of them are going to be in that final," Coughlin said. "I just want to be a part of that, know that a world record is going to be broken there, it's just a matter of who."

Amanda Beard, who lugged her teddy bear to the starting block in the 1996 Games, is now a 22-year-old who qualified in three individual events.

Beard won the world record in the 200 breaststroke. The 100 breaststroke will be a showdown between her and Australian Leisel Jones. Beard will challenge defending Olympic champion Yana Klochkova of Ukraine in the 200 individual medley.

This time, America's swimming sweetheart could be 15-year-old Katie Hoff, who trains at the same Baltimore club as Phelps. She qualified in the 200 and 400 individual medleys, which Klochkova swept in Sydney.

Kaitlin Sandeno is peaking at the right time, too. The Sydney Olympian qualified in three individual events.

Besides the Aussies and Americans, the Japanese, Russians and Italians are medal contenders during the Aug. 14-21 swimming competition.

Ernie Eys has finished second, tied for ninth and second in this year's four major tournaments.

Bunker: Dye's stringent test of character

BUNKER, FROM BACK PAGE

a face as straight as a 5-iron. "I don't understand their problem. I'm sure somebody will get to this golf course, because it's a fair test."

Dye doesn't appear to get much argument on that score. The pros agree that Whistling Straits is fair in the way that Vince Lombardi was fair to the Green Bay Packers. "He treats us all the same," Henry Jordan pointed out at the time. "Like dogs."

And if Dye doesn't understand their problems, it doesn't matter because he'll be one of them this week. Still he predicts that somebody will shoot 65 or 66, and that the winning score will be 8- to 10-under par, much to the chagrin of Herb Kohler, who paid for the place.

Kohler's only regret seems to be that he couldn't install thumb screws where the ball washers are.

"I'm a character that likes to see stresses and strains," he said. "We just want to see the best players in the world tested so that we can see aspects of their mental makeup, their emotional makeup and their courage."

He didn't mention their sanity. "Sometimes," Dye said, "people choke on popcorn."

Steve Hoffmann is a columnist for the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel.

PGA Championship

Site: Haven, Wis.
Schedule: Thursday-Sunday.
Prize: Whistling Straits, Straits Course (7,514 yards, par 72).
Purse: \$7.6 million (P. 2003).
Winner's share: \$1.6 million (2003).
First-time PGA Champ: Phil Mickelson won at Oak Hill, beating Chad Campbell by two strokes. Mickelson, in his PGA Tour career, has won 13 PGA Tour events entering the tournament, including the 1996 PGA Championship, which he won by 2 inches from the 72nd hole to secure a second victory.

Notes: Tiger Woods, the 1999 and 2000 PGA champion, has won the PGA Championship since winning the 2002 PGA Championship at the Belfrage Hotel in Bethesda, Md. He has won the PGA Championship four times in his career, including his first major victory in an 11-tournament season. The eight-time PGA Championship winner has one victory — the WGC-Accenture match play tournament — in the WGC series. He has won the WGC-Accenture match play tournament in 2003. Tiger turns this year and is winless in his past four PGA Championships. He has been ranked No. 1 in the world for 31 weeks.

PGA Championship: The PGA Championship, owned by Herb Kohler Jr. and designed by Pete Dye, is the longest major championship in golf, with three full days of 180 and 54 holes. The championship was built on an abandoned military base south of the city of Chicago, along Lake Michigan. The tournament ended the race for the 10 automatic spots on the U.S. Ryder Cup team. Hal Sutton will announce his two captain's picks. Monday, May 10, will be the first round in each major this year. It was second in the U.S. Open and third in the British Open. U.S. Open champion Retief Goosen and three-time major winner Nick Price withdrew Sunday. Goosen was injured by a golf ball that struck his back, while Price is skipping the tournament because of a shoulder injury because of family obligations.



Ian Crocker (above), a native of Maine, holds the world record in the 100 butterfly, an event in which Michael Phelps is a top contender.

Winslow Jr. ends holdout, signs with Browns

TE taken sixth gets six-year deal reportedly worth up to \$40 million

BY JOE MILICIA

The Associated Press

BEREA, Ohio — Kellen Winslow Jr. can begin his pursuit of eclipsing his father's Hall of Fame career.

He's already made more money without catching a pass.

Winslow signed a six-year contract Wednesday with the Cleveland Browns and was attending his first practice, wearing a No. 11 jersey, team spokeswoman Julia Payne said.

A team source told The Associated Press the deal has a base salary of \$29 million and could be worth up to \$40 million if Winslow reaches all his incentives. It also includes a \$16.5 million signing bonus, according to the source, speaking on the condition of anonymity.

The 6-foot-4, 250-pound Winslow is the son of Hall of Fame tight end Kellen Winslow Sr. and calls himself "The Chosen One."

Winslow Jr. says he expects to exceed his father's accomplishments. Winslow Sr. says that at this point, his son is better than he was.

The Browns have not had a tight end with Winslow Jr. on the combination of size, speed and athleticism since Hall of Famer Ozzie Newsome in the 1980s.

The Browns moved up one spot in April's draft to select the former Miami star with the sixth selection, sending the seventh overall pick and a second-round pick to Detroit.

The team and Winslow's agent, Kevin Poston, were reportedly \$12 million to \$22 million apart

during the negotiations, with Poston seeking a contract similar to the six-year, \$34.6 million deal that he negotiated for wideout Charles Rogers last year with Detroit.

But a series of talks that began over the weekend between Poston and Browns President John Collins culminated in a deal Tuesday night.

Poston is a renowned tough negotiator who along with his brother, Carl, represents other prominent NFL clients currently in contract holdouts.

Winslow began his 12-day holdout on July 30 when Poston rejected the Browns' initial offer — a six-year, \$40 million deal that matched what Washington gave safety Sean Taylor, the No. 5 selection.

The deal Winslow agreed to is for the same amount but includes a higher signing bonus and base salary.

Last week, Browns quarterback Jeff Garcia implored Winslow to get to camp, saying, "You are going to get your riches no matter what, but you need to think about the team."

Garcia said he and Winslow have traded phone messages in which the rookie said he was frustrated with negotiations.

Winslow has a reputation as a fiery competitor, which has caused him problems in the past.

In his final season with the Hurricanes, he made headlines for a postgame tirade following a loss to Tennessee in which he called himself a "soldier" and compared the game to being at war. He later apologized.



Kellen Winslow Jr. (11), shown at Cleveland Browns minicamp in April, ended his 12-day holdout, giving the Browns their most athletic tight end since the '80s.

WR Brown reunited with Bucs' Gruden

The Associated Press

Tim Brown was reunited with Jon Gruden on Tuesday when he signed with the Tampa Bay Buccaneers, joining the man who coached him in Oakland for four seasons.

The 38-year-old, nine-time Pro Bowl receiver will be counted on to bolster a receiving corps that is in desperate need of experienced help because of injuries and Keenan McCardell's holdout.

Meanwhile, running back Chris Perry ended an 11-day holdout by signing with Cincinnati. Perry was the 26th overall pick in the draft.

His signing leaves three first-rounders unsigned, most notably quarterback Philip Rivers with San Diego. Tight end Kellen Winslow Jr. agreed to terms with the Cleveland Browns on a six-year contract Tuesday night, ending his 12-day holdout.

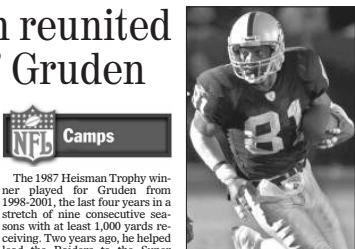
"We're just excited to have him here," Bengals coach Marvin Lewis said of Perry. "It's a process that's taken a little time, but that's part of it."

Brown became a Buc after being released last week after 16 seasons with the Raiders after he fell to fourth or fifth in a receiving corps that includes Jerry Rice and Jerry Porter.

With Tampa Bay, Brown could wind up being a starter with McCardell demanding a raise after a Pro Bowl season and Joe Jurevics out indefinitely after undergoing back surgery earlier this month.

The Bucs also claim rookie receiver Michael Clayton, the team's first-round draft pick, can benefit from being around and learning from the 17th-year pro.

Brown played a franchise-record 240 games for Oakland and has streaks of 173 consecutive games with at least one reception is the second-longest in NFL history behind Rice's 273.



Veteran WR Tim Brown had fallen to fourth or fifth on the Oakland Raiders' depth chart, but he should be able to help the Tampa Bay Buccaneers' depleted receiving corps immediately.

Cardinals: Arizona is waiting anxiously for test results on the right knee of Anquan Boldin, the NFL offensive rookie of the year last season.

The Cardinals' only Pro Bowl player injured his right knee Tuesday morning while loosening up for practice and was carted from the field. That came after he experienced soreness in the same knee on Monday, sitting out a morning practice, but he participated in an afternoon walk-through.

Boldin had X-rays and an MRI exam but results will not be available until Wednesday because orthopedic Dr. Russell Chalk, who administered the tests, also operated on running back Marcel Shipp's broken left leg Tuesday.

Last season, Boldin set an NFL rookie record with 101 receptions, led the most yards receiving (1,377) by a rookie since Houston's Bill Groman in 1960 and established a franchise rookie record with eight scoring grabs.

Eagles: Jevon Kearse returned to practice Tuesday after leaving the field on Monday with a sprained left ankle.

"The ankle is 100 percent better," Kearse said. "If it wasn't well, I wouldn't have been able to practice."

Bryant case prosecutors request indefinite delay

BY JON SARCHÉ

The Associated Press

DENVER — Prosecutors in the Kobe Bryant case asked the judge to delay his trial indefinitely, saying the accused has been affected by developments in the case and the release of closed-door testimony has hurt their ability to get a fair jury.

The motion was made public Wednesday but submitted Tuesday, the day the 20-year-old woman who accused the NBA star of sexual assault filed a civil lawsuit seeking monetary damages from him.

In a court filing, prosecutor Dana Easter said the release of the hearing transcript detailing a defense expert's testimony about the accused's sexual activities was "extremely harmful" to the prosecution's case. She said a strict gag order issued by District Judge Terry Ruckelshaus has prevented the prosecution from responding.

There has been "an absence of balance in the information released," Easter wrote. "The release of this information 28 days prior to trial will have the effect of tainting the jury pool and impact the ability of the prosecution to obtain a fair jury at this time."

Bryant's selection is scheduled to begin Aug. 27. Defense attorney Pamela Mackey did not return a call, nor did the accused's attorneys. Prosecution spokeswoman Krista Flannigan refused to comment further, saying the filing spoke for itself.

Bryant 25, has pleaded not guilty to felony sexual assault. He has said he had had consensual sex with the woman, then 19, at the Vail-area resort where she worked last summer. The Los Angeles Lakers star faces four years to life in prison or 20 years to life on probation, and a fine of up to \$750,000 if convicted.

The prosecution filing does not

mention the civil suit filed in federal court in Denver, which seeks compensatory damages of at least \$75,000, with punitive damages to be determined later. Legal experts said the suit will hurt prosecutors because the defense can argue that the woman is trying for a financial award in a separate proceeding.

"Now all of a sudden it looks like this thing was for money. If it's otherwise, then why would she file a civil case?" said Dan Recht, former president of the Colorado Criminal Bar Association. "In my mind, they would never file a civil case without having a strategy of getting the criminal case dismissed."

Attorneys John Clune and Lin Wood said their client was owed money for pain, "public scorn, hatred and ridicule" she has suffered as a result of the alleged attack last summer. They also accused Bryant of similar misconduct involving other women, but provided no details.

To win a civil lawsuit, a plaintiff must prove only that it is more likely than not harm was caused by the defendant. Prosecutors in a criminal case have to convince jurors beyond a reasonable doubt a defendant committed a crime, a much higher standard of proof.

In the prosecution motion, Easter also said Ruckelshaus has not yet ruled whether the defense can present evidence on the woman's mental health and allegations of drug and alcohol use. Prosecutors would need to hire expert witnesses to counter such evidence, a move they don't want to make until there is a ruling because of tight judicial budgets, she said.

As for the accused, Easter said testimony on the mental health and drug issues "was extremely intrusive and personal."

"Delayed rulings on these two issues have had a substantial impact on the victim's ability to anticipate and prepare her testimony for trial," she said.

Little Leaguers' families in it for the long haul

Fans, teams log plenty of miles to reach Transatlantic Regional

BY RUSTY BRYAN
Stars and Stripes

KUTNO, Poland — For the parents of Little Leaguers participating in the Transatlantic Regional tournament here, getting to far-off Poland requires just a few more of those thousands of miles parents routinely go on behalf of their children.

"We drove here," said Christie Lehr, whose son, Jordan, plays on the Brunsum-Schinnen all-star team which is representing the Netherlands.

"It took 16 hours," she said, adding for emphasis, "Make sure you put it in there that it was LONG."

And not just for the contingent from the Netherlands.

Kutno, located in central Poland about 70 miles west of Warsaw, is a long haul for all seven teams vying for the berth in the Little League World Series.

The teams from Naples, Italy, London, Madrid, Spain, Brussels, Belgium and Dharhan, Saudi Arabia flew in to Warsaw, then rode chartered buses for two hours

over the bumpy two-lane highway to Kutno.

Teams from Ramstein, Germany, and the Netherlands drove all the way, transitioning from high-speed motorways in Holland and Germany to mostly rutted two-lane roads that wind along most of the 200-plus miles from the Polish-German frontier to Kutno.

"Planes, trains and buses," was the way Michelle Richardson of Naples described her trip from Italy. Their 12-plus hour journey behind them, Richardson and her husband, Gerald, were looking forward Tuesday to watching their son Jorgio, 12, and his Italy champion teammates take on Belgium in a crucial game for both teams in their quest to make Thursday's semifinals.

"We're going to see our first game today," Gerald Richardson said. "We're trying to make fourth place."

While the Richardsons were preparing for their first day, many of the parents have been



Netherlands rooters, from left, Melissa Leungers, Charlotte Miller, Christie Lehr, Dianne Tremblay and Kenyon Lehr wait for their team to take the field Tuesday in Kutno, Poland.

RUSTY BRYAN/Stripes

here since the tournament started on Aug. 5 — taking time off from jobs and trying to keep younger siblings occupied.

Keenan Lehr, 6, a soccer player, passes his time playing on the large rocks outside the stadium, and, his mother added, "Game-bus."

Other children, younger sisters from Saudi Arabia and Ramstein, for example, play games with each other in and under the grand-

stands while their big brothers and sisters play games on the fields.

For the parents, though, baseball itself is pastime aplenty, especially in Kutno, where sightseeing is at a minimum.

"I've enjoyed watching the games," Melissa Leungers, mother of Netherlands outfielder Matthew, 12, "even when we're not playing."

And despite the travel time in-

volved, parental opinion was unanimous about the value of the time spent here.

"It's good for the kids," said Gerald Richardson, "a great experience."

Even if it's a little inconvenient getting here.

"Next year," said Christie Lehr, perhaps thinking about the long road home, "maybe it'd be better to take the train."

E-mail Rusty Bryan at: bryan@mail.estrps.osd.mil

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Ramstein recovers vs. Naples

BY RUSTY BRYAN
Stars and Stripes

KUTNO, Poland — Ramstein pitchers found it a little hard to find the strike zone on Wednesday. But they were able to right the ship in time to pull out a 12-9 victory over Naples in Little League Baseball's Transatlantic Regional tournament.

Ramstein — behind the two-hit pitching of Dreshawn Murray — jumped out to a 10-1 lead before Murray gave way to Jacob Groth to start the fifth inning.

After retiring Devon Mitchell on a popout, things got interesting. Groth yielded three batters to load the bases. He turned the ball over to Connor Vitke, who hit the first batter he faced, then walked the next five batters.

Vitke yielded to Augustin Ortiz, who hit Jorgio Richardson — who has been hit five times this week — and then walked Ty Jacobson to force in the eighth run of the inning.

All scored without the benefit of a base hit.

"We just couldn't get a strike," Ramstein coach Andre Murray

Little League

said. "We had a bad inning, but we adjusted and adapted."

Ramstein adapted by re-inventing star slugger/pitcher Chris Johnson in the bottom of the fifth.

Johnson responded by cracking a two-run homer, then shutting down Naples in the top of the sixth to seal the victory.

Johnson's homer was his tournament-leading fifth. Saudi Arabia's Joel Reimer hit his fourth earlier in the day.

Because of the head-to-head tiebreaker, both teams had already qualified for today's semifinals before their game started.

Ramstein nailed down the second seed with its 8-6 victory over England on Tuesday. Naples advanced because it beat Spain 6-4 in extra innings last Thursday.

Spain's only chance to deprive Naples of a semifinal berth evaporated when England beat Spain 13-4 in Wednesday's first game.

In Thursday's semis, Naples (2-4) will face Saudi Arabia (6-0),

which beat them 20-0 in pool play, and Ramstein (5-1) has a rematch against England (4-2).

England 13, Spain 4: The London Area Little League all-stars got to Madrid ace Buckley Ribbeck for four runs in each of the first three innings en route to the nine-run victory.

First baseman Jordan Pasche clubbed his second home run in as many days for England. Teammate John Dileo belted a pair of doubles on a 3-for-4 day.

Spain fell to 2-4.

Saudi Arabia 12, Belgium 0 (4): Saudi pitchers threw their second straight no-hitter — and their fourth in six games.

Josh Amado, who struck out the side in the first, and Charles Fitzmaurice, who pitched the final three innings, combined to record 11 of Belgium's 12 outs by strikeout. Fitzmaurice did walk two batters in the third.

Reimer hit a home run in an eight-run first for Saudi.

Belgium finished its tournament at 1-5.

E-mail Rusty Bryan at: bryan@mail.estrps.osd.mil

Glavine loses two teeth in taxi accident

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Mets pitcher Tom Glavine lost his two front upper teeth in an automobile accident Tuesday while going from LaGuardia Airport to nearby Steinbrenner stadium in a taxi.

Glavine also got stitches for a cut lower lip. He was to be released from a hospital Tuesday night and miss his start Wednesday against Houston.

"I'm just thankful it's not worse," Mets manager Art Howe said. "We're looking forward to having him back, whenever that is. We don't know when that will be."

The accident occurred at 2:15 p.m. as Glavine headed to the ball park. The left-hander had spent Monday's off-day with his family

in Atlanta.

Glavine was leaving LaGuardia in a taxi that collided with a SUV on the overpass of the Grand Central Parkway as he left the airport grounds, the Mets said.

Port Authority police and the New York Police Department responded to the crash, and the Emergency Medical Service took Glavine by ambulance to NYU Medical Center in Manhattan.

Mariners' Martinez shows he's not done yet

The Associated Press

SEATTLE — Edgar Martinez is far from finished.

In his first game since announcing he will retire at the end of this season, Martinez hit a two-run homer to lead the Seattle Mariners to a 4-3 victory over the Minnesota Twins on Tuesday night.

"That doesn't happen every night," he said.

The two-time AL batting champion received a stirring ovation from the Safeco Field crowd of 36,290 before the game. He didn't disappoint, connecting off Terry Mulholland in the first inning for his ninth home run of the year.

"That was great," Martinez said.

"They've always been great to me. That was pretty amazing to me."

One of the game's greatest designated hitters, the 41-year-old Martinez is in his 18th major league season — all with Seattle.

As far as his opponents are concerned, he hung around too long.

Minnesota manager Ron Gardenhire was hoping Martinez would retire immediately Monday, not at the end of the season.

"That way we wouldn't have had to face him any more because he has done that to us many, many times," Gardenhire said.

Gi Meche pitched two-hit ball through eight innings in his third start for Seattle since being called up from Triple-A Tacoma on July 30. The same winner last season, he got his only other major league victory this season on May 2 in Detroit.

Meche (2-5) walked two and struck out seven in his 13th big league start of 2004.

AL Roundup

"It felt real good," he said.

"I think it felt real good to everybody in here to get a win. Obviously for me, I hadn't won a game in a long time. This is definitely what I'm looking to come back here and do."

Bucky Jacobsen also hit a two-run homer in the first off Mulholland (3-6). The AL central-leading Twins lost their third straight and fifth in six games.

Both runs off Meche came on homers. Corey Koskie homered in the fifth for Minnesota's first hit, and pinch-hitter Lew Ford connected in the eighth.

J.J. Putz pitched the ninth for his second save. He gave up a solo shot to Torii Hunter.

Regular closer Eddie Guardado has a torn rotator cuff in his pitching shoulder that probably will require season-ending surgery.

The Seattle left-hander is expected to miss eight to 10 months.

But that didn't stop Martinez and the last-place Mariners from pitching a warm home Tuesday night.

"It was a thrill for me," he said.

Orioles 11, Angels 3: Miguel Tejada went 3-for-5 and tied a season high with five RBIs to help visiting Baltimore extend its winning streak to eight.

Larry Bigbie homered, Brian Roberts tied a career high with four hits and David Newhan was 3-for-5 with three RBIs for the Orioles, who had a season-high 20 hits. Seattle right-hander Daniel



Seattle DH Edgar Martinez is greeted in the dugout after hitting a two-run homer in the first inning of the Mariners' 4-3 win over the Minnesota Twins on Tuesday in Seattle. It was Martinez's first game since announcing he would retire at the end of the season.

Cabrera (9-5) allowed three runs in six innings, ended Anaheim's five-game winning streak.

Aaron Sele (7-1) was charged with six runs — four earned — and a career-worst 13 hits in 4¹/₂ innings.

Anaheim rookie Robb Quinlan extended his hitting streak to 21 games.

Athletics 5, Tigers 4: At Oakland, Calif., Eric Chavez hit a three-run homer and Barry Zito (8-8) pitched seven innings to win for the third time in four starts. Octavio Dotel earned his 10th save in 14 tries with the Athletics.

Rangers 7, Yankees 1: Ryan Drese (9-6) pitched seven shutout innings and former Yankee Alfonso

so Soriano doubled twice and scored three times for the home-standing Rangers.

David Dellucci, also a former Yankee, and Mark Teixeira hit two-run homers to help Texas end a four-game skid.

Kevin Brown (9-2) lost for the first time in six starts, his worst performance since returning from the disabled list on July 30. Both his losses have come against his former team.

Red Sox 8, Devil Rays 4: At Boston, Jason Varitek, Bill Mueller, Orlando Cabrera and Kevin Youkilis each drove in two runs to back Bronson Arroyo (5-8).

Manny Ramirez went 0-for-4 with three strikeouts after missing three straight games because of the flu.

Indians 2, Blue Jays 0: Chad Durbin (5-4) allowed four hits in seven innings at Jacobs Field and struck out a career-high seven. Ronnie Belliard hit a two-run double for the second-place Indians, who won for the sixth time in seven games.

Bob Wickman finished for his fifth save.

White Sox 9, Royals 3: At Chicago, leadoff batter Willie Harris went 5-for-5, Carlos Lee hit a three-run homer and Paul Konerko added a two-run shot to help the White Sox win for the fourth time in six games.

Jon Garland (8-8) pitched seven solid innings.

Kansas City has lost five in a row to face a season-low 33 games under .500 (39-72), the worst record after 111 games in the franchise's 36-year history.

Before the game, the Royals optioned 2003 AL Rookie of the Year Angel Berroa to Double-A Wichita.

Edmonds lifts Cards with homer in 10th

The Associated Press

MIAMI — Two hits were enough for St. Louis to beat Florida.

Albert Pujols ended Josh Beckett's no-hit bid with a sixth-inning homer, and Jim Edmonds homered the first pitch in the 10th inning to lead the Cardinals to their sixth straight victory, a 2-1 win Tuesday night.

"We've won some unusual games this year, and I'd put this one right up there with them," Cardinals manager Tony La Russa said.

Florida had seven hits but was shut out after Alex Gonzalez doubled home a run in the second. St. Louis won for the 19th time in 24 games since the All-Star break.

Julian Tavarez (5-3) pitched 2¹/₂ hitless innings, and Jason Iraheta followed with a perfect 10th for his 30th save. Guillermo Mota (8-5) gave up Edmonds' 31st home run.

Cardinals right-hander Chris Carpenter pitched just 2¹/₂ innings before being benched because of tightness in his lower back.

Padres 8, Cubs 6: Ramon Hernandez had three hits, including a three-run homer, to help visiting

AL Roundup

San Diego move within one game of the Cubs for the NL wild-card bid.

Chicago's Sammy Sosa hit his 56th homer to move past Reggie Jackson into sole possession of eighth place on the career list.

Cubs starter Mark Prior (3-3) allowed six runs, eight hits, five walks, a hit batter and a balk in three-plus innings.

Adam Eaton (7-10) lasted five-plus innings, allowing solo homers to Sosa, Moises Alou, Derrek Lee and Nomar Garciaparra — his first since the Cubs acquired him from the Red Sox on July 31. Eaton also hit a tiebreaking two-run single in the third.

Trevor Hoffman got three outs for his 30th save, retiring Ramon Martinez on a game-ending flyout with two on.

Rockies 5, Phillies 4: Pinch-hitter Vinny Castilla hit a go-ahead two-run double off Tim Lincecum (3-5), and Luis Gonzalez added a sacrifice fly in the three-run ninth as the visiting Rockies won their second straight over the Phillies.

Jerome Burnitz hit his 31st homer, and Charles Johnson added a solo shot for Colorado, which is 4-1 since trading Larry Walker to St. Louis. Steve Reed (3-2) was the winner.

Dodgers 5, Reds 2: Steve Finley hit his first homer with Los Angeles, Adrian Beltré also homered and Jose Lima (11-3) pitched allowed two runs and five hits in eight innings. Eric Gagne got three straight outs for his 34th save.

Cincinnati's Adam Dunn hit a solo shot in the fourth that traveled an estimated 535 feet, the longest at Great American Ball Park. He leads the majors with 35 homers.

Pirates 8, Giants 7: Barry Bonds set a major league record by reaching 30 home runs for the 13th straight season.

Rob Mackowiak hit an RBI double off Matt Herges (4-5) with two outs in the ninth as homesteading Pittsburgh won its third straight.

Michael Tucker had tied the score 7-all in the top half against Jose Mesa (3-1) with his second homer of the game.

Brewers 3, Braves 2 (10):

Chris Magruder homered off Tom Martin (0-2) in the 10th with visiting Milwaukee rallied from a 2-0 deficit to stop Atlanta's five-game winning streak. It was only the Braves' third loss in 17 games.

Jon Adams (2-1) pitched out of a two-on jam in the ninth for the win, and Dan Kolb earned his 32nd save.

Mets 7, Astros 3: Rookie David Wright singled home the go-ahead run and hit his first Shea Stadium homer as the Mets ended a three-game losing streak and handed Houston its fifth loss in six games.

Richard Hidalgo delivered a key double against the club that traded him in mid-June, and Jose Reyes hit a two-run triple.

Steve Trachsel (10-8) won for the first time in six starts since the All-Star break, allowing three runs and seven hits in seven innings. Pete Munro (2-4), who grew up near Shea Stadium, gave up four runs — three earned — and seven hits in five innings.

Expos 4, Diamondbacks 0: At Montreal, Livan Hernandez (9-10) struck out eight in eight innings, and Luis Ayala finished as



St. Louis Cardinals' Jim Edmonds homered off Florida Marlins reliever Guillermo Mota in the 10th inning of Tuesday's 2-1 victory.

the Expos won their third straight.

Johnson (11-10), 1-4 in his last seven starts, allowed three runs and five hits in six innings. Arizona, a major league-worst 35-79, has lost 42 of its last 51.

Major League Baseball scoreboard

American League

East Division			
W	L	Pct	GB
New York	7	1	0.875
Boston	7	1	0.875
Baltimore	54	7	0.886
Toronto	47	16	0.746

Central Division

W	L	Pct	GB
Minnesota	62	50	0.554
Chicago	59	58	0.508
Cleveland	61	45	0.576
Kansas City	59	72	0.447

West Division

W	L	Pct	GB
Oakland	68	57	0.541
Texas	61	59	0.508
Anaheim	62	54	0.536
Seattle	59	57	0.512

Tuesday's games

Boston @ Tampa Bay	1-0
Cleveland @ Toronto	0-0
Seattle @ Kansas City	3-0
Chicago White Sox @ Kansas City	3-0
Los Angeles @ Baltimore	1-0
San Francisco @ Oakland	5-0

Wednesday's games

Detroit @ Oakland	0-0
Tampa Bay @ Boston	0-0
Toronto @ Cleveland	0-0
New York Yankees @ Kansas City	0-0
Baltimore @ Anaheim	0-0

Thursday's games

Tampa Bay @ Detroit	8-10
Los Angeles @ Kansas City	0-0
Kansas City @ Seattle	0-0
White Sox @ Baltimore	0-0

Friday's games

Chicago White Sox @ Boston	1-0
Los Angeles @ Toronto	0-0
Minnesota @ Cleveland	0-0
Kansas City @ Oakland	0-0
New York Yankees @ Seattle	0-0

Saturday's games

Baltimore @ Red Sox	1-0
Minnesota @ Seattle	0-0
Los Angeles @ Toronto	0-0
Chicago White Sox @ Cleveland	0-0
New York Yankees @ Kansas City	0-0

Sunday's games

Los Angeles @ Toronto	0-0
Chicago White Sox @ Cleveland	0-0
New York Yankees @ Kansas City	0-0
Seattle @ Baltimore	0-0

Monday's games

Los Angeles @ Toronto	0-0
Chicago White Sox @ Cleveland	0-0
New York Yankees @ Kansas City	0-0
Seattle @ Baltimore	0-0

Tuesday's games

Los Angeles @ Toronto	0-0
Chicago White Sox @ Cleveland	0-0
New York Yankees @ Kansas City	0-0
Seattle @ Baltimore	0-0

Wednesday's games

Los Angeles @ Toronto	0-0
Chicago White Sox @ Cleveland	0-0
New York Yankees @ Kansas City	0-0
Seattle @ Baltimore	0-0

Thursday's games

Los Angeles @ Toronto	0-0
Chicago White Sox @ Cleveland	0-0
New York Yankees @ Kansas City	0-0
Seattle @ Baltimore	0-0

Friday's games

Los Angeles @ Toronto	0-0
Chicago White Sox @ Cleveland	0-0
New York Yankees @ Kansas City	0-0
Seattle @ Baltimore	0-0

Saturday's games

Los Angeles @ Toronto	0-0
Chicago White Sox @ Cleveland	0-0
New York Yankees @ Kansas City	0-0
Seattle @ Baltimore	0-0

Sunday's games

Los Angeles @ Toronto	0-0
Chicago White Sox @ Cleveland	0-0
New York Yankees @ Kansas City	0-0
Seattle @ Baltimore	0-0

Monday's games

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Chicago White Sox @ Cleveland	0-0
New York Yankees @ Kansas City	0-0
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Wednesday's games

Los Angeles @ Toronto	0-0
Chicago White Sox @ Cleveland	0-0
New York Yankees @ Kansas City	0-0
Seattle @ Baltimore	0-0

Thursday's games

Los Angeles @ Toronto	0-0
Chicago White Sox @ Cleveland	0-0
New York Yankees @ Kansas City	0-0
Seattle @ Baltimore	0-0

Friday's games

Los Angeles @ Toronto	0-0
Chicago White Sox @ Cleveland	0-0
New York Yankees @ Kansas City	0-0
Seattle @ Baltimore	0-0

Saturday's games

Los Angeles @ Toronto	0-0
Chicago White Sox @ Cleveland	0-0
New York Yankees @ Kansas City	0-0
Seattle @ Baltimore	0-0

National League

W	L	Pct	GB
Atlanta	68	51	0.573
Philadelphia	65	49	0.569
Florida	55	46	0.545
Montreal	55	46	0.545

Central Division

W	L	Pct	GB
St. Louis	73	58	0.558
Cincinnati	68	51	0.573
Houston	65	49	0.569
Milwaukee	58	47	0.554

West Division

W	L	Pct	GB
Los Angeles	65	49	0.569
San Diego	60	52	0.536
Colorado	51	45	0.529
Arizona	51	45	0.529

Tuesday's games

Montreal @ St. Louis	1-0
San Francisco @ Pittsburgh	0-0
Colorado @ Philadelphia	0-0
New York Yankees @ Houston	0-0
Los Angeles @ Cincinnati	0-0
Milwaukee @ St. Louis	0-0

Wednesday's games

Milwaukee @ St. Louis	0-0
Arizona @ Montreal	0-0
Colorado @ Philadelphia	0-0
San Francisco @ Pittsburgh	0-0
Houston @ N.Y. Mets	0-0
Los Angeles @ Cincinnati	0-0
San Diego @ Chicago Cubs	0-0

Thursday's games

Houston (Petty 6-4) @ N.Y. Mets	5-0
Los Angeles (Valverde 6-3) @ Cincinnati	0-0
Colorado (Peavy 8-3) @ Chicago Cubs	0-0
Arizona (Cormier 1-3) @ Montreal	0-0

Friday's games

Los Angeles @ Philadelphia	0-0
San Francisco @ Pittsburgh	0-0
Houston @ N.Y. Mets	0-0
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San Diego @ Atlanta	0-0
Florida @ Atlanta	0-0

Saturday's games

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Pirates & Giants 7

W	L	Pct	GB
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Los Angeles @ Cincinnati	0-0
San Diego @ Atlanta	0-0
Florida @ Atlanta	0-0

Friday's games

Serena Williams pulls out of Games because of injury

The Associated Press

ATHENS, Greece — Serena Williams pulled out of the Summer Olympics just hours before she was to travel to Greece with her U.S. tennis teammates.

In New York to catch the team's flight, the six-time Grand Slam singles champion saw a doctor and was told not to play in Athens because of pain in her left knee, U.S. Tennis Association spokesman Randy Walker said

Sports briefs

long-term repercussions on her knee," Walker said.

U.S. coach Zina Garrison, who said last week she expected Williams to play, could not immediately be reached for comment because the team was traveling. They were expected to arrive in

Wednesday.

The doctor "advised her that if she were to play, she'd risk serious

Athens on Wednesday afternoon.

Williams, who earlier this year expressed concern about safety in Athens, withdrew from WTA tournaments in San Diego and Montreal in the past few weeks because of swelling in the knee.

The former No. 1-ranked player will be replaced in the singles draw for the Aug. 15-22 Athens tournament by Australia's Samantha Stosur. The No. 96 Stosur, already entered in doubles, was the highest-ranked player in Athens

who wasn't in the singles draw.

Teams were allowed to replace players on their rosters until last Saturday.

Williams' withdrawal came a day after 1992 singles gold medalist Jennifer Capriati announced she wouldn't play because of a hamstring injury. Capriati's spot in the Athens singles event was taken by 40th-ranked Lisa Raymond, who's also playing doubles with Martina Navratilova.

By pulling out at the last

minute, Williams left her older sister Venus without a doubles partner. The siblings won the doubles gold medal in the 2000 Sydney Games.

Olympic flame reaches Athens

ATHENS, Greece — The Olympic flame neared the end of its 26-nation, around-the-world journey Wednesday, arriving in the Games' host city to cheers from children, roadside parties and women dressed as ancient priestesses.

More than 600 people will carry the flame on a final, two-day trip through greater Athens that will take it from the ancient town of Marathon to Acropolis hill to the opening ceremony Friday in the new Olympic stadium.

Devers will replace Edwards in women's 100 meters

GEORGIPOULI, Greece — Torri Edwards' two-year doping suspension cleared the way for 37-year-old Gail Devers to try to win her third gold medal in the 100 meters.

Edwards on Wednesday appealed to the international Court of Arbitration for Sport, where a binding decision should come before the track competition begins on Aug. 20.

"I really want some time to myself right now," Edwards said at the Crete resort where the team is training. As she walked away, she nodded and smiled when asked if she was taking her case to the CAS.

Edwards' suspension for taking a banned stimulant elevated Devers, a five-time Olympian, into the 100 because she finished fourth in the U.S. trials last month.

Georgia RB Lumpkin to miss season with ACL injury

ATHENS, Ga. — Georgia running back Kregg Lumpkin, who was expected to start, will be lost for the season after tearing a ligament in his left knee during a non-contact drill.

Lumpkin tore his anterior cruciate ligament Monday, the team's first day of practice. He had an MRI on Monday night. The normal recovery period for a torn ACL is about nine months.

Lumpkin was second on the team with 523 yards rushing as a freshman last year, despite missing the first two games with a hamstring injury.

Leafs goalie Belfour may play for Dallas WHA team

DALLAS — Former Stars goalie Ed Belfour was introduced Thursday as a part owner of the World Hockey Association's Dallas Americans.

Belfour said he will oversee all hockey-related activities with the WHA team, including hiring a general manager and coach. He also told The Dallas Morning News for its Thursday online editions that if an NHL lockout happens, it's possible he would play for the Americans.

"I'm working on the insurance now," said Belfour, who is under contract with Toronto and plans to retire in Dallas after his hockey career. "I don't want to sit around. I can stay in shape and play for this team."



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SPORTS



Browns rookie TE Winslow ends holdout; Tim Brown joins Gruden in Tampa Bay, Page 27



Bunker mentality



The 11th hole at Whistling Straits, above, is characteristic of the others — framed by sand traps and mounds. The links-style course, built on an abandoned military base and toxic dump site along Lake Michigan about 60 miles north of Milwaukee, has approximately 1,400 bunkers.

Dye's pet project set to pounce on PGA contestants

HAVEN, Wis. — Pete Dye, architect and snack food salesman, described Whistling Straits as

Dale Hofmann



"popcorn" Monday and left his listeners to divine his meaning. A good guess would be that he plans to have the 86th PGA Championship played in a microwave. There are less

user-friendly facilities in Wisconsin, but they come with snarling dogs and steel bars. All wild and windblown, this is a purely enchanted place for everyone who doesn't have to make a living on it.

Lee Westwood, one of the top 44 players on the planet, came all the way from England to enter Dye's inferno and finished his practice round a victim of false advertising. "I was told before I got here that there were 10 really difficult holes and eight impossible ones," he said. "I'm just trying to work out which the 10 difficult holes were."

Westwood and 155 colleagues have a few days to do the math



The first green at Whistling Straits (above). For the PGA, the course will play 7,514 yards, the longest in major championship history.

"I was told before I got here that there were 10 really difficult holes and eight impossible ones. I'm just trying to work out which the 10 difficult holes were."

Lee Westwood

Englishman's first impression of Whistling Straits

and master the topography of a site that is one part breathtaking beauty to three parts surf, sand and shredded wheat. If there are three flat feet in the whole layout, don't tell Dye, because he'll be there with a bulldozer in the

morning.

The world's best players can't decide how much to practice here as they balance the benefits of familiarity against the perils of exhaustion.

As Darren Clarke put it: "I

played one practice round yesterday, and I was so tired after I played I had about 10 hours sleep last night, because you're trying to figure out where to hit it and what to do."

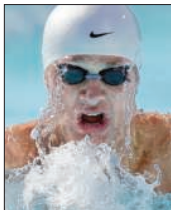
An Irishman, Clarke may be genetically inclined to exaggeration, but he doesn't complain. He called Whistling Straits "brutally difficult," in fact the toughest course he's played, but he goes on to say it's fair. Golfers by nature are masochists.

Dye just smiles a smile born of 78 years of unremitting mischief.

He denies spending his youth pulling wings off flies and while he says touring pros don't appreciate his approach a great deal, he can't imagine what Clarke is talking about when he calls his pet the toughest he's played with.

"He must have had a bad day," snorted Dye, pointing out that 200 people a day have played this course all summer long, while neglecting to mention how many of them hurled themselves off the bluffs and are now swimming with the fishes in Lake Michigan.

"I think these boys who hit it as far as they do and as straight as they do shouldn't have any trouble at all really," he goes on with



Phelps, Crocker, Hansen lead an imposing U.S. presence in the Olympic pool

Page 26



Bryant's accuser files civil suit, asks for delay in criminal trial

Page 27



Ramstein secures spot in semifinals of Little League Transatlantic regional tourney

Page 28

SEE BUNKER ON PAGE 26